

Suspect: a link to more slayings?

④ JUL 17 1979

By Harry Harris
Staff Writer

A sobbing, frightened woman may have provided Eastbay police with the key to the unsolved murders of at least three and possibly as many as nine young women over the past nine years.

Oakland police announced yesterday that, based on the woman's statements, they had arrested her husband, Pleasanton janitor Phillip Joseph Hughes Jr., charged him with one slaying and named him as the prime suspect in two others.

Police sources told The Tribune that Hughes is now being investigated as well as a possible suspect in at least four other killings and two disappearances.

The murder that the stocky, dark-haired Hughes is charged with is the apparent stabbing death of 15-year-old Lisa Anne Beery, who disappeared Jan. 26, 1974 while walking to her Montclair District home in Oakland.

Oakland and Contra Costa County authorities spent all day yesterday unsuccessfully digging for the girl's body on a grassy Rheem hillside where Hughes's wife said she and her husband

had buried her. Police resumed the search this morning.

Contra Costa authorities confirmed that Hughes is the main suspect in the stabbing-strangulation murder of Maureen Patricia Field, a 19-year-old Rheem woman whose decomposed body was found two months after she disappeared in 1972 while on her way home from work in Pleasant Hill. He is also suspected in the strangulation killing of Letitia Fagot, a Walnut Creek housewife killed in 1975 after moving there from San Francisco three months earlier to escape crime.

Authorities say speculation on other cases may be premature, but The Tribune's sources said that since Hughes was arrested last Friday police in Oakland and Contra Costa have started reviewing six other up-to-now unsolved cases.

Those include:

- The March 1970 slaying of 15-year-old Cosette Ellison of Moraga, who vanished after a school bus left her at the gate entrance to her home. Her nude body was found on New Year's Day 1971 along Marsh Creek

Continued back page, col. 1

Continued from Page 1

Road about eight miles south of Clayton.

- The August 1975 stabbing death of Ann Hero Johnson, whose husband found her body when he returned to their Shepherd Canyon Road home in Oakland after a day of fishing.

- The September 1976 disappearance of 9-year-old Lisa Ann Dickinson, who has not been seen since she went for a walk in Heather Farms Park in Walnut Creek trying to find a shortcut to a nearby BART station.

- The September 1977 disappearance of Lou Ellen Burleigh, a 21-year-old Walnut Creek secretary who never returned from a job interview with a man who told her to meet him in a Pleasant Hill parking lot.

- The April 1978 strangulation of Cynthia Waxman, an 11-year-old Moraga girl who was found by her mother in a clump of bushes near Campolindo High School where she had gone looking for a kitten.

- The October 1978 strangulation of Armida Wiltsey, attacked as she jogged around the Lafayette reservoir.

Police say Hughes' wife, Susanne Perrin, contacted Oakland Sgt. Alex Smith Thursday and tearfully poured out a macabre story of murder and perversion she had kept bottled up inside of her for seven years.

Her story of the three slayings is spelled out in documents on file in Oakland Municipal Court.

According to the documents Perrin said she was told by Hughes that he had killed Field in a remote section of Moraga by stabbing and strangling her.

At his request, Perrin said, she accompanied him to the scene of the murder and helped transport the body to the Morgan Territory Road area where it eventually was discovered.

After disposing of the body, Perrin said she saw Hughes in possession of a shoulder purse, wallet and notebook belonging to Field, all of which were recovered in the couple's Pleasanton home.

In the Beery case, the documents say Perrin told police she and Hughes abducted the girl at knifepoint while she was hitchhiking near the Warren Freeway, apparently on her way to

cash a check at a Montclair shopping center.

They drove the girl to a home on Girvin Drive where they were "house sitting," Perrin said, and Hughes instructed Perrin to remain upstairs while he took the girl to the basement.

A half-hour later, she said, Hughes summoned her downstairs where she found him covered with blood and the nude, stabbed body of the girl lying on the floor.

Perrin said they carried the body to the trunk of their car where it stayed for two days before they drove it to the remote hillside in Rheem where Hughes buried the girl in a shallow grave.

According to the court records the alleged murder weapon—a hunting knife—was recovered in the Hughes' home.

The court documents also say that Perrin worked with Fagot at a San Francisco bank and that on the day Fagot was killed Perrin received a call from Hughes telling her he had killed Fagot earlier that day at her home.

Smith said Perrin had talked with a friend who advised her to come to police with her story. She told him she had met Hughes seven years ago and after a two-year courtship finally married him.

Perrin described her seven years with Hughes as filled with fear and domination.

Besides being an accomplice to at least two of the murders, Perrin told Smith, she was forced by her husband to submit to simulated violent acts including posing in the nude as if she were a murder victim.

At a news conference yesterday police showed reporters 55 color prints recovered at the Pleasanton house which show Perrin pretending to have been shot, stabbed and strangled.

Oakland Police Capt. James Stewart said yesterday that one reason Perrin finally came forward is that "she didn't seem to feel dominated anymore."

Hughes was scheduled to enter a plea to the Beery murder charge today in Oakland Municipal Court. He is being held without bail.

No charges have been filed against Perrin.

Ex-wife testifies to Hughes' strain

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

With a vacuous gaze and a matter-of-fact voice, a lanky blond woman said Monday she accepted strangulations during sex, drowning attempts and complicity in the murder of an Oakland teen-ager as the price she had to pay to stay married to accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes.

Susanne Perrin, a sometimes-bank teller who testified with immunity from prosecution, told an Alameda County jury that she helped her husband abduct 15-year-old Lisa Beery — then sat in an upstairs bedroom while Hughes stabbed the girl to death in the basement of a Montclair

home.

Perrin acknowledged she had several chances to call for help — when she was alone by the telephone during the attack; when the owners of the home, which she was house-sitting, unexpectedly returned; and again when she was driving a car with Lisa's body in the trunk while Hughes was in another vehicle.

On each occasion, Perrin said, she refused to call for help — and in the one instance, talked her friends into going for a drive so she could "clean up" the house.

Responding to prosecutor Richard Inglehart's questions about why she had agreed to be an accomplice and why she had

submitted to a sex life involving degradation and violence, Perrin said:

"... I tried to leave him ... and he found me and I was afraid to stay away ... I was afraid to leave because of what he might do to me.

"He treated me as though I was really incapable of doing anything on my own," she said at another point. "When I did make (decisions) he would try to point out how they were always wrong."

Perrin also detailed her life with Hughes during her testimony.

A 1970 graduate of Del Valle High School in Walnut Creek, she said she met Hughes at a bowl-

ing alley in Rheem.

Shortly after they began living together, Hughes began subjecting her to sexual perversion, Perrin testified.

In a routine that was repeated "hundreds of times," she said, he would have her disrobe and then choke her into unconsciousness before he had intercourse with her.

At times the strangulations were so vigorous that some of the small blood vessels in her face popped, Perrin said.

She also testified that on the Thanksgiving before their 1973 marriage, Hughes forced her to lay out a favorite wardrobe — then attempted to drown her in the bathtub.

es' strange sex habits

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She also testified that on the Thanksgiving before their 1973 marriage, Hughes forced her to lay out a favorite wardrobe — then attempted to drown her in the bathtub.

He wanted to kill her by drowning, Perrin said, "because I wouldn't look so bad afterward," then planned to dress her body in the pretty clothes.

Perrin said she climbed out a window to escape and called the police on Hughes. But despite the treatment, Perrin said she married Hughes at Christmas, 1973 — four weeks before Lisa was abducted.

"I was afraid to refuse him," she said of her husband's proposal.

Perrin also described occasions when she and her husband would cruise Eastbay freeways, looking for "a victim."

On Jan. 26, 1974, the couple went for a drive, and when

Hughes saw Lisa hitchhiking, he ordered his wife to stop and pick her up, she said.

The girl was taken back to the home where the couple was staying, Perrin said, and Hughes led the girl at knifepoint to the basement.

When she next saw her husband, she said, he was nude and covered with blood, and Lisa was lying dead on the floor.

Perrin said she willingly helped her husband clean up the mess and dispose of the body "because he told me to."

It wasn't until five years later, when she shared her horrible secret with a new boyfriend, that police were called and arrested Hughes for the crime.

Court denies request to

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

SEP 12 1980

MARTINEZ — A motion to move the sex murder trial of Phillip Joseph Hughes out of Contra Costa County was denied Thursday by Superior Court Judge Richard Arnason.

Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee had argued that Hughes can not receive a fair trial here because of publicity about the case. At a hearing Wednesday, he introduced 127 newspaper and magazine articles and called some of them sensational and prejudicial in nature.

In a three-page written decision, Arnason ac-

knowledgeed the case has received considerable attention in the media, but listed eight primary reasons why he believes Hughes can receive a fair trial in Contra Costa County.

Among the reasons he gave are:

■ The crimes are not recent, the victims and their families were not prominent or well-known, the amount of newspaper coverage has "greatly decreased, and ... is now generally confined to factual reporting relating to the forthcoming trial itself, and the heterogeneity of Contra Costa County makes it likely jurors of divergent backgrounds could be found.

move sex murder trial

■ In a recent California Supreme Court ruling in the case of Hovey vs. Superior Court of Alameda County the high court ruled that in trial courts prospective jurors can be questioned individually about their knowledge of a specific case.

Hughes was convicted in Alameda County last April of killing Lisa Beery of Oakland. In Contra Costa County, he is charged with the murders of Maureen Patricia Fields of the Orinda area in 1972, and Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek in 1975.

His trial is scheduled to begin Monday.

Dothee had argued that few cases in the history of Contra Costa County had been afforded such

"an onslaught of prejudicial publicity." He said the fact that his client had been called sexually deviant, a necrophiliac and a diabolical killer, would make it difficult to find 12 jurors who had not heard of the case.

Prosecutor Jack Waddell argued that media accounts have been fair and accurate, and that most of the publicity "is behind us."

Dothee said Thursday he will waive his right to appeal the decision to the state Court of Appeal before the trial.

But he added that if the trial "is unsuccessful" he will exercise his right to ask the appeals court to grant a new trial because of the change of venue issue.

Defense, prosecution sum up; Hughes case ready for jury

APR 3 1980

Phillip Hughes lawyer asked an Alameda County jury Thursday to find the former Pleasanton janitor guilty of manslaughter for the 1974 killing of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery because the crime was "the act of a madman."

But the prosecutor demanded a first-degree murder conviction, charging that if the jury buys Hughes' diminished capacity defense, "we should close up our law books and throw them away."

Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams and prosecutor Richard Iglehart exchanged final arguments in the so-called "guilt phase" of Hughes' murder trial.

After instructing the jury, Su-

perior Court Judge Harold Hove was expected today to order the panel to begin deliberating.

McWilliams dwelt heavily on the testimony of three expert witnesses, all of whom said Hughes had been mentally ill since the age of 8.

"He went through every maze of psychological test and came out with the same result every time — paranoid schizophrenic and subject to delusional states," McWilliams said.

Because of his mental illness, McWilliams argued, Hughes was unable to premeditate the killing — a requirement for first-degree murder — and also was unable to form what the law calls "malice aforethought," a state of mind that differentiates a mur-

der from the lesser crime of manslaughter.

McWilliams suggested to the jury that a verdict of either voluntary or involuntary manslaughter would be appropriate in the case.

If he prevails, and also persuades the jury that his client is insane, Hughes could be released from a state mental hospital in as little as two years.

Prosecutor Iglehart contended that the experts are just plain wrong about Hughes, a man who he said "got high" from committing the brutal killing.

Iglehart said extensive planning went into the killing — and that showed ample evidence that Hughes premeditated the crime.

—By Lance Williams

Jury finds killer of Oakland girl legally sane

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

APR 9 1980

Phillip Hughes, convicted last week of the sex-killing of an Oakland teen-ager, was found legally sane Tuesday by an Alameda County jury that deliberated for less than 90 minutes before returning the verdict.

The ruling means that the 31-year-old Pleasanton janitor will be imprisoned for at least seven years for the 1974 abduction and murder of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery.

If the jury had found that Hughes was insane at the time of the crime, he could have been released from a state mental hospital after as little as 90 days of treatment.

Superior Court Judge Harold Hove set May 16 for sentencing.

Hughes, who according to testimony in his three-week-long trial is suspected of murdering at least five Eastbay women, goes to trial in Martinez April 21 on the only other charges he now faces — for the slayings of Maureen Fields in 1972 and Letitia Fagot in 1975.

The verdict came at the close of an anti-climactic "sanity phase" that followed the jury's ruling last week that Hughes was guilty of first-degree murder for killing the Oakland schoolgirl.

Assistant Public Defender

James McWilliams relied extensively on psychological testimony during the first part of the trial in an unsuccessful bid to win a "diminished capacity" verdict of manslaughter for his client.

Despite persistent rumors that McWilliams planned to have Hughes testify during the sanity phase of the trial, the defense lawyer rested his case after calling only one witness — psychiatrist Karin Gudkisen, who had also testified in the guilt phase of the trial.

Gudkisen asserted that Hughes is a paranoid schizophrenic who was unable to stop himself from killing Lisa.

But a prosecution psychiatrist, Hugh Winig, testified that Hughes is not a schizophrenic at all — but a necrophiliac who got sexual pleasure from having intercourse with the women he murdered.

Winig said that in his opinion, Hughes had the ability to restrain himself from killing Lisa — and thus, by law, was sane at the time of the crime.

The jury agreed.

After returning the verdict, the eight women and four men of the jury hurried from the courtroom without speaking to reporters.

Hughes' boasts of lying recalled

APR 2 1980

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

Phillip Hughes' former lover testified Tuesday that the accused sex killer once boasted he knew how to lie to police while convincing them he was telling the truth.

"When he lied, he said he would add enough truth so there were some things that could be checked, some things the listener would know to be true," said Catherine Carson, a former girlfriend of Hughes who is now an electronics expert in Texas.

"Having accepted the few points, they would accept the fabric in between."

Carson was called as a rebuttal prosecution witness as Deputy District Attorney Richard Iglehart attempted to back up his assertion that Hughes is feigning amnesia about the 1974 murder of schoolgirl Lisa Beery in hopes of convincing the jury he is insane.

Outside the presence of the jury, Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams fought vainly to have Carson's testimony kept from the jury.

After he failed, the defense cross-examined her at length on the fact that she, like Hughes' wife and another girlfriend, submitted to repeated strangulations during sex with the former Pleasanton janitor.

Carson said she was an unhappy high school girl when she met Hughes in 1970. In the course of their six-year relationship, she said Hughes strangled her about 40 times.

At first, she said, Hughes convinced her that the stranglings had not occurred, but simply were the result of hallucinatory "flashbacks" that he attributed to Carson's use of LSD.

Later, Carson said, she realized that the strangulations were actually occurring, and she moved out of town — in part to

go to school, but also to attempt to break off the relationship.

Carson said Hughes confided about his ability to lie in 1971, after he had been arrested for auto theft.

On that and other occasions, she said, Hughes also boasted that "he'd make a good psychiatrist" because "he could predict people's behavior — he knew what they were going to do."

Three defense experts have testified that Hughes is a schizophrenic and was unable to control his actions at the time he abducted and killed Lisa.

They have supported that diagnosis in part by citing Hughes' "fragmentary memory" about the killing.

Iglehart asked all the doctors whether Hughes might be deliberately lying in hopes of convincing them he is crazy.

All the defense experts have insisted that they believe Hughes.

Hughes convicted of murder

APR 4 1980

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

Phillip Hughes, a Pleasanton janitor who blamed his crimes on mental illness, was found guilty of first-degree murder Thursday for the 1974 slaying of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery.

A jury of eight women and four men deliberated for only six hours before flatly rejecting the testimony of three defense psychiatrists.

They had contended Hughes was a psychotic who didn't know what he was doing when he abducted the 15-year-old at knife-point near her Montclair home and stabbed her to death.

Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams had asked the jury to return a manslaughter verdict under the state's "diminished capacity" law.

Instead, the jury endorsed the view of prosecutor Richard Iglehart, who charged that Hughes is a "diabolical killer" shrewd

See HUGHES, Back Page

The Public Utilities Commission has given its support to legislation which would limit rate-

enough to mislead psychiatrists into calling him crazy.

Iglehart had told jurors that if they did not bring in a first-degree verdict, "we might as well close our law books and throw them away."

The verdict means that the trial Monday will go into a second, "sanity phase" in which the defense will attempt to prove Hughes was legally insane at the time of the crime and should be sent to a mental hospital rather than a state prison.

Hughes faces a life prison term, with parole possible after seven years.

In addition, he is scheduled to go to trial April 21 in Martinez for two other sex-killings — those of Maureen Fields in 1972 and Letitia Fagot in 1975.

California law makes a distinction between the legal questions of diminished capacity and sanity, although psychiatric tes-

timony is commonly used to determine both issues.

Defense attorney McWilliams declined to comment on whether he has other experts to testify in the trial's sanity phase.

Prosecutor Iglehart said he will call two psychiatrists who are to testify that Hughes was sane at the time of Lisa's killing.

The prosecutor declined to call his experts in the first phase of the trial, relying instead on aggressive cross-examination to cast doubts on the validity of the defense experts' diagnosis.

Hughes, who the defense experts said is prone to "dissociative states" in which he fantasizes about dead bodies, sat stolidly when the verdict was read. He did not look at jurors when they filed into or out of the courtroom.

Lisa's parents last saw her alive when she left home about noon to hitchhike to a nearby supermarket.



THE BAY

Change of venue sought in Hughes

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

SEP 5 1980

MARTINEZ — Accused sex murderer Phillip Joseph Hughes' attorney issued a motion Thursday in Contra Costa County Superior Court requesting that Hughes' trial be moved out of the area.

Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee said he believes Hughes, of Pleasanton, will not receive a fair trial here because of publicity about the case. A hearing on the matter will be held Wednesday morning in the court of Judge Richard Arnason.

Hughes, who was convicted in Alameda County last April of murdering Oakland school girl Lisa Beery, faces charges here in the 1972 murder

of Maureen Patricia Fields of the Orinda area and the 1975 murder of Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek.

"My recollection is that this case is one of the most highly publicized cases in the county in this decade," Dothee said.

"The law suggests that when there is a large degree of publicity, jurors, simply being human, can not afford a fair trial. I don't think we can get a fair trial in the greater Bay Area."

Hughes was arrested last year after his wife gave police details of sordid murders she alleged she and her husband had been involved in.

Fagot's nude, bludgeoned and strangled body was found in March of 1975 in her Walnut Creek

home. Fields' body was found near Clayton, several months after she disappeared on her way home from work in Pleasant Hill early in 1972.

At the hearing next week, Dothee said he plans to present exhibits of the numerous newspaper articles which have been printed about Hughes.

Dothee said Hughes' Alameda County conviction also had some bearing on his decision to seek the change of venue.

"The fact that he was tried in Alameda County, was determined to be sane and was sentenced to life in prison could well be a factor which could influence the minds of a lot of prospective jurors," he said.

murder trial

Prosecutor Jack Waddell of the District Attorney's Office said he will oppose the motion.

"We feel there is no reason for it," he said. "There are a lot of trials as notorious as this that are not moved (to different areas)."

In a separate matter Thursday, Dothee's motion asking that each murder case be tried separately was denied by Arnason.

Hughes, who appeared in the courtroom wearing shackles on his ankles, sat impassively and did not appear at all moved by the denial of the motion.

If the change of venue is granted, the state Judicial Council will recommend three alternative sites, one of which will be selected by Contra Costa Superior Court.

Accused sex-killer's boyhood told

MAR 29 1980

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

The mother of accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes glumly described Friday how she repeatedly sought psychiatric care for her son during his formative years after the family caught him kicking other children, drowning baby birds, burglarizing homes and wearing women's underwear.

Stella Hughes, who acknowledged her son's presence in the courtroom only after a lawyer asked her to point him out for the jury, was called as a witness in support of Hughes' diminished capacity defense to the charge of murdering Lisa Beery Jan. 26, 1974.

Mrs. Hughes said the boy's problems began at birth. He was delivered with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck.

As a child, Phillip was physically healthy, Mrs. Hughes said, but "withdrawn and unaffection-

ate" and had trouble telling right from wrong.

"He never did seem to understand," she said. "He'd just look at you blankly." When Phillip was four, Mrs. Hughes said, the family sent him to a child psychiatrist in Fresno because of problems he had at nursery school.

"He just watched (the other children), and if they came too close he'd kick or shove them," she said.

At age eight, he went to another doctor in Fresno because he was "breaking things other children brought to school," she said.

His final session with a psychiatrist came when he was a high school student in Manhattan Beach.

That time, she said, Phillip had "thrown some animals into the pool." In addition, his late father had seen Phillip wearing a woman's bra in the bathroom, she said. The family was also

concerned because Phillip kept breaking into other people's homes and taking things, she said.

After about six months, Phillip stopped seeing a psychiatrist, Mrs. Hughes said. After he grew to adulthood, according to testimony in the case, he killed at least three young women and on hundreds of occasions strangled his wife during sex.

Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams' case so far seems aimed at constructing a Dan White-style diminished capacity defense in hopes of convincing the jury to find Hughes guilty of involuntary manslaughter and not murder for Lisa's killing.

Earlier, a second defense psychologist, Nancy Van Couvering, said that Hughes is so hopelessly psychotic that he could not control his actions when he abducted the Beery girl, took her to a house in Montclair, stabbed her

to death, cleaned up the blood, drove the body to a hill above Rheem and finally buried it.

At the start of her testimony, Van Couvering casually let slip some information that public defender McWilliams had battled to keep from the jury.

At a pre-trial hearing, McWilliams succeeded in convincing Superior Court Judge Harold Hove not to allow in evidence the fact that Hughes — in a conversation secretly recorded by police — told his wife he would feign mental illness to beat the murder charge.

The information came out anyway when McWilliams asked Van Couvering if she thought Hughes had been truthful with her and she responded, "Well, I know Mr. Hughes told Susanne Perrin that he was going to play crazy and I certainly was alerted."

Skull dug up on hillside where girl reported buried

4 JUL 19 1974
Portions of a human skull, believed to be that of Lisa Anne Beery, a 15-year-old Oakland girl who disappeared five years ago, was found today on a desolate, wind-swept hillside in Rheem Valley in central Contra Costa County.

It was dislodged by a bulldozer in the third day of a search for the girl's remains after the frightened wife of a janitor told police that was where she and her husband had buried the body in 1974.

Oakland Police Sgt. Alex Smith, in charge of the search squad, immediately ordered the area sealed off and sent for Dr. Roger Hegler, a University of San Francisco anthropologist, who was flown to the scene by helicopter.

Hegler said preliminary examination showed the skull portions including a jawbone were that of a young human. They are being taken back to the Alameda Coroner's laboratory for analysis while the hillside

search continues for other skeletal remains.

Smith said the skull fragments were found in the loosened earth by Grant Finwall, one of several Explorer Scouts who had been following behind the bulldozer excavations.

Smith said it appeared almost certain it was that of Lisa Beery.

The skull was found in the area pinpointed four days ago by the wife of Phillip Joseph Hughes Jr., who she said killed and raped the girl after kidnapping her Jan. 26, 1974.

Hughes, a janitor who lived in Pleasanton, is being held for investigation of murder, and police believe he may be linked to the disappearances of eight other young women since 1970.

The searchers, including Oakland police, Contra Costa Search and Rescue Squads and volunteers, had been searching the grassy knolls since Monday, after Hughes wife, Perrin, came

forward with her information.

Perrin said she had been too frightened of her husband to reveal until now what had happened.

The young girl disappeared while walking to her Montclair District home in Oakland. Perrin told police she and Hughes had abducted her at knife point near the Warren Freeway.

She said they drove the girl to a home on Girvin Drive where they were house sitting. Hughes instructed Perrin to remain upstairs while he took her to the basement.

A half-hour later, Perrin said, Hughes summoned her downstairs where she found him covered with blood and the nude stabbed body of the girl lying on the floor.

Perrin said they carried the body to the trunk of their car where it stayed for two days before driving it to the remote Contra Costa hillside where they buried it in a shallow grave.

Psychologist cross-examined

MAR 28 1980

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

A defense psychologist who described accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes as "an alien from outer space" underwent a bruising cross-examination Thursday from a prosecutor who contests the diagnosis.

Dr. Paul Berg was the leadoff witness as the defense began its attempt to convince an Alameda County jury that the former Pleasanton janitor was so mentally imbalanced that he should not be held legally responsible for the 1974 abduction and murder of schoolgirl Lisa Beery.

Berg's testimony, based mostly on a three-hour interview with the defendant, gave the strong indication that Hughes was suffering from unusual emotional problems — including an obsession with dead bodies that may be related to brain damage he suffered at birth.

But during a lengthy interrogation by prosecutor Richard Iglehart, Berg also gave the jury

its first indication that the killing of Lisa was not an isolated act — but one of three killings he committed.

That fact had been ruled inadmissible evidence in the trial until Thursday.

In addition, the prosecutor elicited testimony that the psychologist made his diagnosis without having read the statement Hughes gave to police after his arrest.

Likewise, Berg said he never reviewed the account of the crimes that Hughes' ex-wife, Susanne Perrin, gave to authorities.

Both are key items of evidence in the trial.

As a child, Berg said, Hughes was hopelessly psychotic, so out of touch with reality that by the time he was an adult and began killing people, he didn't know what he was doing was wrong.

"He did not participate in this world at all," Berg told Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams. "He's better described as

an alien from another planet."

When it was his turn, Iglehart came out swinging.

"How many people did he kill?" Iglehart demanded in his first question to the psychologist.

Berg said he had "read in the paper" that Hughes had killed three women, but said he didn't ask him about that. Hughes said "he didn't remember killing anyone," Berg said, believing him.

Berg also insisted that he had never been given either copies of the transcript of Hughes' confession nor copies of the statement his ex-wife gave to police.

Berg remained steadfast in this testimony until the prosecutor showed him a receipt that Berg had signed, acknowledging he had been given the items by the district attorney's office.

He stuck to his opinion that Hughes was so mentally ill that "he doesn't know right or wrong in the deep enough sense to restrain his behavior."

The trial continued today in Alameda County Superior Court.

JUL 18 1979

Hughes murder plea scheduled

Oakland—Phillip Joseph Hughes Jr., a Pleasanton janitor charged with the 1974 slaying of 15-year-old Lisa Anne Beery, is scheduled to enter a plea this afternoon in Municipal Court.

Hughes' wife went to police last week to name Hughes in the slaying and after police went to their home and found evidence they said largely substantiated her claim, he was charged with the crime Friday.

Homicide investigators searching for Beery's remains failed again yesterday to locate the site where the Hughes supposedly buried the body on a grassy hillside near Rheem in Contra Costa County.

Expert cites Hughes imbalance

APR 1 1980

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

A third mental health expert testified Monday that accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes was too mentally imbalanced to know what he was doing when he abducted and killed Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery in 1974.

Dr. Karin Gudiksen, a psychiatrist at Highland County Hospital, endorsed a diagnosis earlier offered by psychologists Paul Berg and Nancy Van Couvering that the Pleasanton janitor is a paranoid schizophrenic who is suffering from mild brain damage.

Those ailments, Gudiksen told Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams, put Hughes into a "dissociative state" that among other things made him "unable

to form the intent to kill" Lisa, whom he kidnapped at knifepoint while she was hitchhiking near her Montclair home.

Hughes and his wife took the girl to a nearby house where they were staying. According to the wife's testimony, Hughes took the girl to the basement and stabbed her to death.

If the jury follows the diagnosis of the three defense experts, it must find Hughes guilty of manslaughter under a "diminished capacity" theory. Manslaughter is punishable by a minimum of two years in state prison.

Most of Monday's session was taken up with a grueling cross-examination of Van Couvering, who reached her conclusions about Hughes' mental state by

use of an inkblot and other psychological tests.

Van Couvering asserted that Hughes had bizarre reactions to the test, in which subjects are asked to make up a story about a blot of ink on a piece of paper.

For example, Van Couvering said, Hughes said the inkblot depicted "a hawk who is shot and has holes in him ... trying to eat two other birds to replace the missing parts."

Prosecutor Richard Iglehart required Van Couvering to describe in detail how she reached her conclusions about Hughes' mental state from such tests.

Iglehart asserted that Hughes is a "diabolical killer" who is faking insanity to beat a murder conviction.

Lisa Ann Beery's killer almost caught in act

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

Accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes narrowly missed being caught in the act of raping and stabbing young Lisa Ann Beery in the basement of a Montclair home, according to testimony in his murder trial in Alameda County Superior Court.

An Oakland man who allowed Hughes to house-sit for him while he took a skiing vacation in January 1974 said Friday that when he returned home a day early, he was met at the door by a "surprised and worried" Susanne Perrin — Hughes' wife and accomplice in the crime.

Witness Larry Raussa said Perrin nervously begged him to leave for an hour because "she had so much to do getting the house squared away."

Raussa said he was "annoyed," but accepted the explanation and drove away — totally unaware that the clean-up job Perrin mentioned including mopping up the blood left from the brutal attack on the 15-year-old Skyline High School sophomore.

Raussa testified after prosecutor Richard Iglehart, in a forceful opening statement, called Hughes "a sometimes-bowler, sometimes janitor and diabolical killer."

Iglehart said the testimony of Perrin — who has been granted immunity from prosecution — will conclusively prove that Hughes kidnapped Lisa while she hitchhiked to the grocery on Jan. 26, 1974. He took her to the basement of the Raussa home, Iglehart said, stabbed and raped her, and later buried the body in the hills above Rheem.

The body was recovered last summer, after Perrin went to police and told them that her

husband was responsible for the killing of Beery as well as the murders of Letitia Fagot in Walnut Creek in 1975 and of Maureen Field in rural Contra Costa County in 1972.

Witness Raussa said when he and his wife returned home, Hughes and Perrin were gone — and the place was neat as a pin. He noticed no bloodstains on the floor, although scientific tests later performed by police showed the presence of human blood there.

Raussa said one thing was different, however. When he left his pet Afghan Hound with Hughes, the dog was a gentle and friendly animal. When he returned, the dog was extremely skittish, cowering and hiding at the slightest loud noise.

At the time of the crime, Raussa was working for a shelving company. Ironically, he later became an Oakland policeman, and now is an inspector with the district attorney's office.

"Not having the training I have now, I didn't read anything into" Perrin's unusual behavior on the day of the murder, he said.

Earlier, Lisa's parents briefly took the witness stand to identify her photo and some rings that were found with her remains.

Through their testimony, as during the rest of the day, Hughes sat staring into space and showed no signs of being aware of the proceedings. His lawyer has admitted Hughes killed the girl, and says he will present an insanity defense.

Perrin, who according to investigators suffered under a "Manson-like domination" exerted by Hughes, is expected to testify Monday.

Hughes' ghastly family album

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

Susanne Perrin Tuesday identified 55 pages from the Hughes family picture album — Polaroid photos showing her in various stages of undress while posing as the victim of a series of stabbings, hangings and gunshot wounds.

Perrin, ex-wife of accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes, testified that her husband required her to model for the simulated murders so he could work out the "emotional problems" that, among other things, led him to kill Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery Jan. 26, 1974.

Perrin, who was granted immunity from prosecution for her testimony, said she put up with the photo sessions — just as she had submitted to "hundreds" of

strangulation sessions during sex — because her husband had "brainwashed" her into doing his bidding.

In her final day on the witness stand in Hughes' murder trial, Perrin also suggested a motive both for the killing and for the acts of degradation to which she was subjected.

Hughes told her he was heartbroken over his breakup with a former girlfriend named Cathy Carson, Perrin testified, and wanted revenge.

"He wanted to kill Cathy Carson," Perrin said. "For fear of being the ultimate suspect if he killed her, he could substitute other people in her place . . .

"The reason he had to kill people was to substitute for Cathy."

In addition to the murder of Lisa, Hughes is charged in Contra Costa County with the 1972

murder of Maureen Field and the 1975 killing of Letitia Fagot.

For much of her second day of testimony, Perrin underwent vigorous cross-examination from defense lawyer James McWilliams, who hopes to prove his client was insane when he killed Lisa and buried her body in the hills above Rheem.

Despite prodding questions that required Perrin to reveal the most intimate details of her marital life, she consistently refused to characterize her husband as "sick."

"You did all this to try to help your husband with his emotional problems?" McWilliams asked at one point.

"That's what he led me to believe," Perrin said.

The photo collection was put in evidence by the defense.

Police: Suspect in 3 murders may have slain others

OCT 11 1979

By Frank Wootten
Staff Writer

Martinez—Phillip Joseph Hughes Jr., whose wife admitted in court that she provided him with a list of potential murder victims and helped him move bodies about, still is under investigation in unsolved slayings of young women.

Officers believe he may be involved in more than the three murders with which he is charged.

"He could be responsible for an unlimited amount of homicides," Capt. Warren Rupf of the Contra Costa County sheriff's office said.

"He is still under investigation. It is the slow, methodical type of investigation and at this point we can't anticipate any major breaks."

Hughes will appear in Superior Court here tomorrow just three days after the gruesome testimony given by his wife, Suz-

anne Margaret Perrin, was made available to the public.

It took the frightened Perrin the better part of two days to tell Municipal Court Judge John D. Hatzenbuehler how she sought to relieve her husband's frustrations and submitted to his torture rapes.

Her testimony was given last month at a closed preliminary hearing and not made available to the public until Tuesday afternoon, when a transcript of the hearing was filed in Superior Court.

Hughes faces charges in Contra Costa County that he murdered Maureen Patricia Fields of Rheem in 1972 and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek in 1975. His appearance tomorrow will be for arraignment, the first step leading to trial.

In Alameda County he will be tried on a charge of killing Lisa Ann Beery, 15, in 1974.

Continued page B-8, col. 1

Continued from page B-1

At the preliminary hearing, Perrin blamed her husband's frustrations on a soured romance with a former girlfriend named Cathy.

She said he wanted to kill Cathy but couldn't because she was his girlfriend and he would be the logical suspect.

"So he was wanting to use other people to relieve anxiety or tension or whatever," she testified.

"I had sort of felt that Phillip had control over me and sort of — I was just sort of programmed to do certain things only when he asked me to and things like that. Something I'm not quite sure of (is) if I understood myself."

According to her testimony, Hughes picked Fagot's name from a list Perrin gave him containing the names of four women generally fitting Cathy's description. All were employees of a San Francisco bank where both Perrin and Fagot worked.

Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell asked Perrin if Hughes said why he wanted the list.

"Yes, for possible victims," she replied.

"Could you elaborate?" Waddell asked.

"For murder," she replied.

She then told how Hughes allegedly got out of bed at 4 a.m. and left the house, and later that morning telephoned her at the

bank and indicated he had killed Fagot.

She also told how Field's body was disposed of at an isolated location on Morgan Territory Road four miles off Marsh Creek Road.

This happened before Hughes and Perrin were married but were living together in Walnut Creek.

According to her testimony, he came home late one night bloodied and dirty, and said he had seen a man chasing a nude girl carrying her clothing down a ravine in Rheem.

He stopped to help, according to the story, but the man ran off. The girl had been stabbed, but Hughes told her he didn't want to go for help because of his police record. Perrin said he told her he figured the girl was going to die, so he strangled her.

Perrin said she drove to Rheem, and after Hughes put the body and clothing in her car, she drove to Morgan Territory Road to dump the body down a gully.

Later Perrin told how she carried the Berry girl's body in the trunk of her car for two days after the girl was murdered downstairs in the Hughes home.

Berry was buried on a hillside above Rheem, where the body was found after Perrin went to Oakland police.

The story she told police won her immunity from prosecution in the two counties.

Perrin said she decided to go to the police several weeks after she started seeing a new boyfriend. She said she told him about everything because "I just couldn't take it anymore."

Hughes' confession replayed in court

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

MAR 27 1980

His memory seemingly fading in and out like a faraway radio broadcast, accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes calmly told Oakland police he remembered Lisa Beery as "a white mannequin with blotches of red, big blotches of red."

His statement was made in a tape-recorded confession the day of his arrest last summer, when Hughes said he had only the vaguest recollection of the Jan. 26, 1974, abduction and killing of the Oakland schoolgirl.

But when Oakland police Sgt. Alex Smith asked him if he could say who was responsible for "the cutting and strangling" of Lisa, Hughes responded, "myself."

About half of Hughes' confession was played Wednesday for an Alameda County jury that must decide whether the former Pleasanton janitor is responsible for the girl's death — and, should the case get that far, whether he was sane at the time.

Earlier, after a hearing outside the jury's presence, Superior Court Judge Harold Hove granted a defense motion to shut off the tape just before Hughes also told police he killed two other women — Maureen Field and Letitia Fagot — in Contra Costa County in 1972 and 1975.

Smith testified he arrested and questioned Hughes after meeting his wife, Susanne Perrin, at a Fremont restaurant last July.

Perrin told police she had helped her husband commit the three killings.

But Hughes' statement contained only what appeared to be

random details — and not a coherent narrative — of the crime. Hughes said he was hampered by "a very poor sense of time" and just plain poor memory.

When the interview began, Hughes maintained he could not remember killing Lisa, but only conversations with his wife about the crime.

Later, however, Hughes said he did remember washing the blood off Lisa's and his own body after he killed her in a Montclair home he and his wife were house-sitting.

When in a series of questions police asked him to "paint a (verbal) picture" of the girl, Hughes replied:

"The body doesn't appear particularly female. It appears like a body covered with blood and the blood is disappearing off the body. I'm sure the shower was on her ..."

At the time of the interview, police had just begun a search for Lisa's grave, and many of their questions focused on the location of the body.

At first, Hughes said he could not remember, but finally answered, "Just above Rheem somewhere."

Shortly after that, Hughes was taken to a knoll overlooking Rheem where he pointed out an area that he said looked familiar.

Days later, the body was recovered from a three-foot-deep grave.

Shortly after the tape was played, prosecutor Richard Iglehart rested his case. Defense lawyer James McWilliams was to begin his case today.

Hughes like 'an alien from another planet'

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

Accused sex killer Phillip Hughes is "an alien from another planet" who was too psychotic to know what he was doing when he killed Lisa Beery, a defense psychologist said today.

Dr. Paul Berg said Hughes suffers from organic brain damage and a long list of psychological problems that makes him incapable of legally committing first-degree murder.

"He did not know at all what he was doing," Berg said. "He did not participate in this world at all. He's better described as an alien from another planet."

Berg's testimony came after defense lawyer James McWilliams told the jury that Hughes committed the crime but was "too mentally sick" to be held responsible for it.

Earlier today, Hughes calmly told Oakland police he remembered Beery as "a white mannequin with blotches of red, big blotches of red."

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Later, however, Hughes said he did remember washing the blood off Lisa's and his own body after he killed her in a Montclair home he and his wife were house-sitting.

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Wife tricked him to confess, Hughes claims

MAR 19 1980

By Lloyd Boles
Tribune Staff Writer

Slaying suspect Phillip Hughes took the stand Tuesday to assert that even though he still loves her, his former wife "double-crossed" him into blurting out to police that he killed three young women.

"They said Sue (Perrin) would be released and given immunity if I gave statements on the three crimes," Hughes testified during a pretrial hearing.

His lawyer sought to have the asserted admissions of guilt barred from a jury on grounds they were psychologically coerced and thus involuntary.

Hughes, a 32-year-old janitor from Pleasanton, also accused Oakland homicide inspector Alex Smith of being "abusive and attacking" — he accused me of lying — during conversations prior to the time a formal recorded statement was taken."

Smith earlier denied the allegations and contended Hughes freely and voluntarily admitted the crimes, described in earlier police statements as "atrocious and ritualistic sex crimes."

Hughes is on trial before Alameda County Superior Court Judge Harold Hove for the savage slashing death of 15-year-old Lisa Beery, killed in 1974 in a house in Montclair that Hughes and his wife were "sitting" for a friend.

He also is charged in Contra Costa county for the slashing and strangulation murders of two other women in 1972 and 1975.

Hove decided after two days of hearings prior to jury selection, which was to start today, that the alleged confessions were voluntarily given and can be

used by the prosecution during the guilt phase of Hughes' trial.

Hughes has entered the dual plea of innocent and innocent by reason of insanity.

His attorney, James McWilliams, told the court his defense will be "diminished capacity" during the guilt phase. If the jury rejects that defense, then it will determine if he was insane at the time of the offenses.

The defense sought desperately to bar Hughes' admissions in the Beery case — for without them the prosecution has a thin line of circumstantial evidence.

Hughes claims through his attorney that his then-wife, who had secretly gone to police bursting with emotion to tell of a seven-year ordeal of mayhem and murder, conned him into thinking that she also had been arrested when police seized him last July at a Concord bank where he worked as a janitor.

It was only because he feared she would be implicated in what Hughes kept referring to as "the crimes," that he gave a series of statements to police, a state-appointed psychiatrist characterized by McWilliams as a police agent, and to a deputy district attorney.

When Hughes came under cross-examination by prosecutor Richard Iglehart, he was acting so groggy with his eyelids blinking in slow motion that Iglehart asked him if he were drugged or under medication.

Hughes said no.

Sue Perrin, who police say helped Hughes find at least two of the murder victims and then dispose of their bodies, was granted immunity from prosecution if she aided the prosecution's case.

Jury finds murderer was sane

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — Convicted murderer Phillip Joseph Hughes was sane when he took the lives of two young women in 1972 and 1975, a Contra Costa County Superior Court jury decided Tuesday.

The jury reached the verdict in only two hours, closing the book on a six-week trial that focused on two of the most notorious slayings in Contra Costa history and that explored the delicate legal interpretation of sanity.

There was little question in the trial about Hughes' guilt or about his severe emotional problems. The case became a journey through Hughes' mind and his incredible past, which included bizarre sex-oriented rituals and a fascination with death.

In the guilt phase of the trial, which ended last Tuesday, the jury found Hughes guilty of first-degree murder in the killings of 19-year-old Maureen Field of Moraga in 1972 and 25-year-old Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek in 1975.

Public Defender Ken Dothee had asked for verdicts of voluntary manslaughter.

The sanity phase, which concluded Tuesday, was held solely to determine whether Hughes was sane at the time of the killings. In that phase, Dothee aggressively argued that if ever a man was insane, it was his client.

"The question we asked ourselves," jury foreman John Morcos of El Cerrito said, "was, 'Did we have enough proof to show he was insane?' The answer was no."

The verdicts here were identical to those reached earlier this year in Alameda County Superior Court, where Hughes was convicted of the 1974 murder of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery. He was found sane in the sanity phase.

All Hughes' victims were viciously stabbed or bludgeoned, and at least two were raped. In addition, he repeatedly strangled and otherwise harmed his wife and ex-girlfriend during sex.

Outside Superior Court Judge William Channell's courtroom Tuesday, foreman Morcos said the most persuasive testimony in the sanity phase came from Walnut Creek psychiatrist Hugh Winig, who was the last witness called by prosecutor Jack Waddell.

Winig characterized Hughes as "extremely disturbed," but said his symptoms did not satisfy criteria necessary to establish legal insanity.

The majority of the other psychiatrists said they believe Hughes suffered from psychosis and could not control his actions at the times of the murders.

"Winig was well prepared and overwhelming," Morcos said.

But he added that neither the guilt-phase verdicts nor the sanity-phase verdicts came easily.

"It wasn't black and white. You had to fill in your own color (and use your own instincts)," he said.

Jury finds Hughes guilty of first degree murders

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — Phillip Joseph Hughes was found guilty of two counts of first degree murder Tuesday by a jury which refused to accept a defense argument that he was too mentally disturbed to realize he had committed the vicious slayings of two Contra Costa women.

The verdict was delivered after slightly more than two full days — or about 12 hours — of deliberations.

His attorney had asked for voluntary manslaughter verdicts for the 1972 stabbing of 19-year-old Maureen Field of Moraga and the 1975 bludgeoning-strangulation of 25-year-old Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek.

Hughes, who stared blankly throughout the three-week trial, seemed impervious to the verdict as well. Without expression, he stood, was handcuffed and led back to the county jail.

But he will be back in the courtroom of Contra Costa Superior Court Judge William R. Channell Thursday to begin the sanity phase of the trial.

Hughes entered pleas of innocent and not guilty by reason of insanity to both charges. The sole purpose of the secondary phase will be to determine whether Hughes is sane.

In a separate murder case handled in Alameda County Superior Court earlier this year, Hughes was found guilty of first degree murder in the slaying of Oakland schoolgirl

Lisa Beery. In the secondary phase of that trial, he was found sane.

Prosecutor Jack Waddell tried to control obvious elation with the verdict Tuesday, displaying only a subdued smile. Deputy Public Defender Ken Dotthee quickly exited the courthouse.

Both choose not to comment on the verdict until completion of the second phase, which is expected to conclude Monday or Tuesday next week. With the help of four mental health experts who testified that Hughes is a paranoid schizophrenic, Dotthee had argued that his client suffered from diminished capacity at the times of the slayings.

Hughes was arrested last year after his wife went to Oakland police and told of the murders.

The trial now appears to have played into the hand of Waddell, who relied on the facts of the case rather than on testimony from mental health experts in the first phase.

He now has the luxury of calling favorable mental health witnesses in the sanity phase, while Dotthee may be left with repeat testimony from the same witnesses who appeared in the guilt phase.

"We may call a couple of people," Waddell coyly said.

One man likely to get a call is Dr. Hugh Winig, an Alameda County psychiatrist who testified during the Beery trial that Hughes was sane.

Hughes draws life for girl's sex-killing

3

MAY 21, 1980

Phillip Hughes, the Pleasanton janitor whose spine-chilling sex-slaying of 16-year-old school girl Lisa Beery horrified an Alameda County courtroom, was sentenced to life imprisonment today.

But the thought that he could be paroled in 7 years stirred prosecutor Richard Iglehart to an impassioned message to Superior Judge Harold Hove, and indirectly to the state parole board. The 32-year old Hughes, he said, is "the most cold-blooded, calculating killer one could ever imagine."

"The defendant should go to

prison and never be released," Iglehart said, after expressing fears that because Hughes committed the killing in 1974 when California's indeterminate sentencing law was still in effect, his life imprisonment sentences could be cut short.

If Hughes had killed the girl under today's laws, Iglehart said, he could have been put to death.

Hughes now faces two more murder charges in similar sex-slayings of women in Contra Costa County. Hughes has admitted both in interviews with psychiatrists.

Lisa Beery slayer gets life term

MAY 22 1980

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

A convicted killer whom a prosecutor says is the most dangerous man ever convicted in Alameda County was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for the 1974 sex slaying of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery.

According to 1974 law, Pleasanton janitor Phillip Hughes could be paroled on his first-degree murder conviction in as little as seven years.

Prosecutor Richard Iglehart railed against Hughes as "a calculating, cold-blooded killer"

who "will always be a threat to human life" and urged the state Board of Prison Terms never to free him.

Hughes said nothing as the sentence was pronounced, displaying the same disinterest he has shown since his ex-wife went to Oakland police last summer and turned him in for the killing of Beery and for two unsolved killings in Contra Costa County.

In a statement to probation officer Stanley Northey, Hughes admitted two other murders for which he is facing trial in Contra Costa County — the 1972 slaying

of Maureen Fields and the 1976 killing of Letitia Fagot.

Police are still investigating him as a suspect in a long list of unsolved Eastbay killings, but Hughes has declined to submit to a truth-serum interview to assist the officer.

Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams, who failed to convince a jury that Hughes was not guilty by reason of insanity for the killing of Lisa, told Superior Court Judge Harold Hove that his client is "not a cold-blooded killer" but a victim of "pressures that confused his mind and reason."

Hughes hearing closed to press

AUG 16 1979

Oakland—A preliminary hearing for Phillip J. Hughes, the man accused of murdering three young Eastbay women, was ordered closed to the press and public today despite objections from The Tribune and other news organizations.

Municipal Court Judge Malcom Champlin issued the order at the request of Public Defender James McWilliams, saying he was bound by California Law to close the hearing.

Tribune reporter Harry Harris, representing six news reporters at the hearing, raised an objection to the expulsion order, arguing that the public's right to an open trial under the 1st Amendment should prevail.

"I considered very carefully the rights of the press," Champlin said. "They are very important. The rights of the defendant are very important. In a major and important decision, all rights had to be considered."

But the judge said Section 868 of the California Penal Code permits the defense to request a closed preliminary hearing to prevent pre-trial publicity and that the law had been held constitutional by higher courts.

"I found myself bound by law," the judge said. "I am bound until such time as that decision is changed."

Hughes is accused of murdering 15-year-old Lisa Anne Beery here in 1974. Contra Costa County authorities also have charged him with murdering two other young women—Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem in 1972, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek in 1975. Hughes is under investigation in a series of other unsolved Eastbay slayings.

Judge Champlin's order also prevented two Walnut Creek police officers from sitting in on the hearing today.

'I helped him find someone to kill'—wife

OCT 10 1979

By Frank Wootten
Staff Writer

Martinez—An incredible story of trying to help relieve her husband's frustrations by finding another victim for him to kill was told on the witness stand here by the wife of Phillip J. Hughes, who is charged with the sex murders of three Eastbay women.

The testimony was given by Suzanne Margaret Perrin in a closed hearing Sept. 27 and 28 in the court of Municipal Court Judge John D. Hatzenbuehler. It did not become available to the public until yesterday when the transcript was filed in Superior Court, where Hughes will stand trial.

Perrin, who said she submitted to frequent physical abuse by her husband, testified the frustrations were caused by a relationship that went sour with a former girlfriend named Cathy.

"Generally he would tell me, you know," she testified, "that he didn't want to kill Cathy ... (Cathy) was his girlfriend, and, you know, and for fear



Phillip Hughes

that he would get caught if he killed her.

"So he was wanting to use other people to relieve anxiety or tension or whatever."

The "other girl," as it came out in a sordid tale of torture, was Letitia Fagot, 25.

Fagot, who worked with Perrin in a San Francisco bank, was killed in her home at Walnut Creek in 1975 shortly after she moved there to be safe from the crime scene in San Francisco.

Cont. back page, col. 1

Prisoner privacy upheld
The state Court
clangs shut, Presiding Ju
n Francisco—

Hughes' wife ...

Continued from Page 1

First, Perrin testified, her husband wanted the names and

addresses of people for possible burglaries. She gave him three or four names, including Fagot's. She said he broke into Fa-

got's house but saw nothing he wanted.

Later, Perrin told the court, Hughes asked her about different women working at the bank as "possible victims." Asked by Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell to elaborate, Perrin replied, "For murder."

She said she gave him two names, including Fagot's, along with a description—"five-seven, blonde and nice figure."

She added that "in previous discussions regarding murder victims, he told me he needed somebody with hair other than blond and a rather full figure because he wanted it to be somebody who was close to Cathy's build and looks."

At 4 a.m., his wife testified, Hughes got up and left the house. He called her at the bank between 8:30 and 9 a.m. and "he indicated to me that he had killed Tish."

A few months later Hughes gave Perrin three diamond rings. One, she said, was Fagot's wedding ring that she recognized from its big diamond and unusual mount.

Hughes' wife said Cathy came to visit Hughes at least 10 times for periods of a day or so, but Perrin said she had to move out of the house each time because her husband didn't want Cathy to know Suzanne was living there.

It was brought out during cross examination by Deputy Public Defender Kenneth Dothee that Perrin became romantically involved with another man, who suggested she go to the police and tell them about her involvement with Hughes.

She went to the Oakland police, and in exchange for her story was granted immunity from prosecution in both Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

But even after going to the police, she continued to live with Hughes until the day he was arrested.

In other testimony, Perrin told of her involvement with the two other murders Hughes is charged with—the 1972 slaying of Maureen Fields, 19, of Rheem and the 1974 killing of Lisa Ann Beery, 15 of Oakland.

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Her testimony was interwoven with descriptions of helping Hughes find isolated locations in which to bury the victims, and of his desire to have intercourse with her while attempting to strangle her.

After their marriage, she testified, the stranglings were "set up—he told me what he was going to do."

Perrin said she thought she knew why her husband strangled her.

"In at least two of the cases," she told the judge, "he had at times expressed the need to kill Cathy and being afraid of being caught if he did kill her. He expressed to me that he was going to use other people as victims to relieve his desire."

Asked why she didn't try to stop the killings, Perrin said, "It was due to my state of mind as far as being afraid of him, being controlled and wanting to help him."

She told her new boyfriend about it, she said, because "I just couldn't take it anymore."

Hughes will appear in Superior Court here Friday for arraignment on the two Contra Costa County murder charges. He also faces trial in Alameda County for the slaying of Beery.

Hughes hearing closed to public

SEP 26 1979

Martinez—The preliminary hearing of Phillip J. Hughes, accused in the sex slayings of two Contra Costa County women and one in Alameda County, was closed to the public yesterday at the request of Deputy Public Defender Ken Thee.

The code section under which Municipal Court Judge John D. Hatzenbuehler granted the request has been challenged on appeal of other cases, but Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell said it is still applicable.

Waddell said all he could say is that the preliminary hearing, which is to determine whether Hughes will stand trial in Superior Court, took all day and will last at least until noon today.

Hughes, of Pleasanton, is accused here in the 1972 slaying of Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, and the 1975 killing of Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

In Alameda County, he is accused of the 1974 slaying of Lisa Ann Beery of Oakland.

Lisa Beery identified

JUL 22 1979

Oakland—A human skeleton uncovered by a bulldozer on a remote hillside in central Contra Costa County was identified Saturday as the remains of 15-year-old Lisa Anne Beery, who disappeared five years ago.

The skeleton, along with two rings that were also identified as belonging to the victim, was found within a few yards of where her suspected killer had pointed out to police the location of the gravesite.

Phillip J. Hughes, a Pleasanton janitor, has been charged with murder, kidnapping and rape in the death of the Oakland teen-ager, and is suspected of being involved with the disappearance of eight other young women since 1970.

Hughes' wife, Susanne Perrin, led police to the Rheem hillside after telling them of the abduction and murder of Lisa in January 1974.

Sgt. Alex Smith of the Oakland Police Department said that after Perrin showed them a site that eventually was 100 yards off from where the body was found, Hughes was also taken to the hillside.

Smith said the suspect pointed to a site that was only 20 yards from where the grave was found Thursday, three days after the search began.

"There is no doubt in our minds it is Lisa," Smith said.

Two Pittsburg dentists, Dr. Edward Comulady and Dr. Harry Scott, identified the teeth from charts supplied by Lisa's dentists.

But pathologists at the Alameda County Coroner's Office are still not certain of the cause of death, and the remains will be analyzed Monday by Dr. Paul Herrmann.

Perrin has told police that Hughes killed and raped Lisa after abducting the girl while she was hitchhiking near the Warren Freeway on her way back home in Oakland's Montclair District.

Perrin, who said that until recently she had been too frightened of her husband to tell authorities of what he had done, claimed that she and Hughes took the teenager to a house on Girvin Avenue.

Perrin said that Hughes, who often forced her to act out fantasies of sex and murder, told her to remain upstairs while he took Lisa to the basement where he stabbed and raped her. The couple then drove the girl's body to Rheem and buried her.

Hughes is scheduled to enter a plea Wednesday. No charges have been filed against Perrin.

Hughes arraignment set in Eastbay slayings

SEP 28 1979

Martinez—Phillip J. Hughes, charged with the killings of three young Eastbay women, has been ordered to appear Oct. 12 in Superior Court on the charges after a closed preliminary hearing that took nearly two days.

He will appear before Superior Court Judge E. Patricia Heron then for arraignment on charges of killing Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

He also faces trial in Alameda

County in the slaying of Lisa Ann Beery, 15, of Oakland.

Municipal Judge John D. Hatzenbuehler excluded the public from the preliminary hearing at the request of Deputy Public Defender Kenneth Dothee.

Dothee said he couldn't even disclose the number of witnesses who testified, but it was learned the principal witness Wednesday was Hughes' wife, Susanne Perin, who went to Oakland police in July with a sordid tale of murder and perversion.

Attorneys jockey for advantage at Hughes hearing

By Lloyd Boles
Tribune Staff Writer

MAR 18 1980

The defense made a last-ditch effort Monday to block from the jury's view statements in which Pleasanton janitor Phillip Hughes admits to the slashing, frenzied killing of 15-year-old Lisa Beery in the basement of his home in 1974.

But the prosecution quickly called two witnesses, one of them Hughes' wife at the time, Suzanne Perrin, who has admitted to police that she helped Hughes find his "murder victims."

The testimony was intended to show that Hughes' statements to police were given freely and voluntarily, and that he was admonished of his right to remain silent.

The statements the prosecution seeks to introduce are critical to the defense indicated by Defense Attorney James McWilliams — Hughes was insane at the time he killed Lisa Beery, who, with the help of Hughes' wife, was kidnapped in the Montclair district on her way to cash a check.

Portions of a recording played in court Monday quote Hughes as telling his wife in the back of a patrol car minutes after his arrest July 13 that he was going to "try to make them think" he was insane.

Perrin admitted to McWilliams that she had told authorities prior to the arrest that her husband — she divorced him last Jan. 22 — had murdered three young women.

She testified that she agreed to a plan worked out by homicide Inspector Alex Smith and Sgt. Mary Hilliard and others to "pretend" that she was also under arrest.

Thus, handcuffed and, in Perrin's words, "trying to get worked up" so she could be convincing, Perrin was already in the rear of the patrol car when officers placed Hughes in with her.

Hughes didn't know that she wore a "Fargo" listening device attached to her body that was transmitting to a tape recorder.

While Hughes admitted killing no one during this recording, he later talked with other officials, admitting his crimes.

It's the former admissions that the defense is worried about and seeks to exclude on two grounds.

One is that the talks between Perrin and Hughes are confidential because of the marital contract.

The other is that Hughes'

tract.

The other is that Hughes' statement in the patrol car was the "product of psychological compulsion created by the deliberately staged deception" of Perrin.

As a result the first statement was involuntary, as were any statements that followed, the defense contends.

Indications are that Superior Court Judge Harold Hove will allow Hughes' actual admissions, to be played in open court today, to determine if they were freely given.

Earlier in the day, Hove rejected defense motions that would have delayed the trial until April while a "key defense witness" got back from Guatemala, and a gag rule barring attorneys and court attaches from discussing the case.

McWilliams sought vigorously to bar the press and public from Monday's hearing and all other pretrial proceedings, asserting that reporting of the events would bias potential jurors.

Hove agreed with Prosecutor Richard Igelhart that there was no evidence before him in the way of charts, polls or other statistics which show that any pretrial publicity taints the jury panel.

Actual jury selection was expected to start late today or early Wednesday.

Attorney seeking to bar press from murder hearing

By Lester On
Tribune Staff Writer

MAR 16 1980

Phillip Hughes, charged with murdering Oakland teen-ager Lisa Beery in 1974, will go on trial Monday. His attorney, Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams, said Friday he would "seek to exclude the press and public from all pretrial hearings. . . ."

McWilliams declined to say what motions he would make. But he said, "Whatever motions I do make, if any, will be prefaced with a request to

**Freedom of Information Day meeting
by First Amendment defenders. Page B-7.**

the court that the arguments on them be held outside the presence of the public and press."

He said he feared revealing the motions now because they may prejudice potential jurors.

Hughes, who has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, will appear before Alameda County Superior Court Judge Winton McKibben, presiding judge of the criminal court, who is expected to assign the case to another judge for the actual trial.

The trial was initially scheduled to start in April. It was expected that the state District Court of Appeal would have ruled by then on whether the prosecution could see reports on Hughes prepared by court-appointed psychiatrists.

Prosecutor Richard Iglehart said the District Court of Appeal lifted its stay Thursday after the Alameda County District Attorney's office agreed not to look at the reports until the sanity phase of the trial begins.

However, he said the legal issue of whether the office should have access to the reports remains with the court and will be resolved at a later date.

Hughes is also accused in Contra Costa County of murdering two other young women, Maureen Fields and Letitia Fagot.

Much of the evidence against Hughes has been provided by his wife, Suzanne Perrin, who was given immunity from prosecution for her cooperation.

8 FEB 13 1980

Sex-killing trial delayed

The state District Court of Appeal today postponed the trial of accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes until it resolves a legal controversy over whether the prosecutor should see reports on the defendant prepared by court-appointed psychiatrists.

Hughes had been scheduled to go on trial next Tuesday in Oakland on charges of murdering Oakland teen-ager Lisa Beery in 1974.

Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams had sought to bar prosecutor Richard Iglehart from access to the reports, made after Hughes pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

Slaying suspect pleads insanity

DEC 28 1979

Accused sex killer Phillip Hughes pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity Thursday to the 1974 murder of Lisa Beery.

His lawyer then mounted an effort to prevent the prosecution from seeing a psychiatric report that will be used to back up the plea.

Hughes, who earlier had pleaded innocent to the crime, entered the additional plea in Alameda County Superior Court.

When Judge John Cooper

made routine arrangements for the defendant to be examined by a court-appointed psychiatrist, Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams made his unusual bid to keep the report secret.

Under present law, the reports of court-appointed psychiatrists are provided to both the judge and the prosecutor—and, in such celebrated trials as the Dan White case, court-appointed psychiatrists often wind up testifying as prosecution witnesses.

In contrast, the reports of private psychiatrists who examine defendants at their lawyers' request are confidential.

McWilliams said he believes the confidentiality laws should also apply to the reports of court-appointed psychiatrists. The judge set Jan. 8 for a hearing on the issue.

Hughes is charged with raping and murdering the Beery girl after picking her up while she was

hitchhiking and taking her to his home.

In Contra Costa County, he is also accused of murdering two young women, Maureen Fields and Letitia Fagot.

Much of the evidence against Hughes was provided by his wife, who under a grant of immunity from prosecution told police that Hughes forced her to take part in some of the killings and also made her pose as a murder victim so he could photograph her.

Hughes pleads innocent to charges

OCT 13 1979
Martinez—Phillip J. Hughes pleaded innocent yesterday to charges he murdered Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek, and Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem.

His trial was set for Jan. 28 by Superior Court Judge E. Patricia Heron at the end of an arraignment that took but 90 seconds.

Hughes then was returned to Alameda County where he is being held pending trial in Superior Court there Nov. 26 on

charges he abducted and killed Lisa Ann Beery, 15, of Oakland.

The star witness in both trials is expected to be Hughes' wife, Susanne Perrin, who told a sordid story in municipal court here last month—made public earlier this week—of providing her husband with a list of potential murder victims and helping him dispose of bodies.

She was granted immunity from prosecution when she went to Oakland police with her story.

New trial date set in triple murder case

DEC 21 1979

Tribune Martinez Bureau

Phillip J. Hughes, charged with the slayings of three Eastbay women, has been given a new trial date in Martinez to avoid a possible conflict with his Alameda County trial date.

He was originally scheduled to go on trial Jan. 28 on charges he murdered Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnason rescheduled the trial for March 10. Phillips will go on trial Jan. 8 in Alameda County on the charge he murdered Lisa Ann Beery of Oakland.

Beery rape-murder trial in first round

4 MAR 21 1980
Fifteen-year-old Lisa Beery of Oakland was raped and stabbed to death by a "sometime bowler, a sometime janitor and a diabolical killer - Phillips Hughes," an Alameda County prosecutor charged today.

In the opening round of the sex-murder trial of Hughes, Deputy District Attorney Richard Iglehart showed the jury video tapes and stacks of photographs to illustrate what he said was the "sad, tragic, brutal set of events" that led to the Jan. 26, 1974 dreary death of Lisa shortly after she hitchhiked from her Montclair home to cash a baby-sitting check at a grocery store.

Iglehart, in his statement to the jury, said Hughes and his wife, Susanne Perrrin, abducted Lisa and took her to a house where Hughes stabbed her with a hunting knife at least three times, raped her, then buried her

body in a hilltop grave overlooking the town of Rheem in Contra Costa County.

Lisa's remains were discovered last summer after Hughes' wife went to Oakland police and told them what her husband had done.

Perrin, who has been granted immunity from prosecution, is expected to be the key witness against Hughes. His attorney, Assistant Public Defender James Williams, said Hughes has admitted killing Lisa. His defense is insanity.

Following Iglehart's opening statement, Lisa's parents, prominent yacht broker John and Linda Beery, took the stand briefly to describe the last time they saw their daughter walking down the street on her way to the store.

Both identified rings found at the gravesite as belonging to Lisa.

Innocent plea made AUG 29 1979 to murder charges

Martinez—Phillip J.
Hughes pleaded innocent in Municipal Court here yesterday to charges he murdered two young women in Contra Costa County. He then was returned to Alameda County where he is held on a third murder charge.

Hughes will be returned here Sept 25 for a preliminary hearing before Municipal Court Judge John D. Hatzenbuehler.

Hughes, a Pleasanton janitor, was arrested after his

wife told Oakland police he had raped and killed several young women.

His bail was set earlier at \$500,000 on the charges he killed Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem in 1972 and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek in 1975.

In Alameda County he is charged with the 1974 slaying of Lisa Ann Berry of Oakland, whose remains were found at a point near Rheem where Hughes' wife said she was buried.

Judge orders Hughes to trial

AUG 17 1979

Oakland—Philip J. Hughes, accused of killing 15-year-old Lisa Ann Beery here in 1974, has been ordered to stand trial in Superior Court following a daylong preliminary examination yesterday that was closed to the press and public.

Hughes, a Pleasanton maintenance man, appeared before Municipal Court Judge Malcolm Champlin, who issued the order for the closed hearing at the request of Public Defender James McWilliams.

Champlin said he was bound by California law to close the hearing, stating that the law permits the defense to request a closed preliminary hearing to prevent pretrial publicity and that the law has been held constitutional by higher courts.

Hughes' wife, Susanne Perrin, was composed as she testified that she had helped her husband transport Beery's body to a remote hillside in Rheem, where it was discovered last month.

Perrin also testified that Hughes had raped and killed Lisa after abducting her while she was hitchhiking near the

Warren Freeway on her way back to her Montclair district home in January of 1974.

Also testifying was Alameda County pathologist Paul Herrmann, who said that the skeletal remains of Beery bore multiple stab wounds to the chest and that they were the cause of her death.

Hughes, who sat calmly throughout the hearing, bore evidence of having been beaten by fellow prisoners last Tuesday, while being held in the Alameda County courthouse jail. After receiving hospital treatment for facial lacerations and a chipped tooth, Hughes has been placed in isolation.

Hughes, who could not post the \$500,000 bail, has been ordered to appear Aug. 30 in Alameda County Superior Court.

He is also charged with murdering two other young women, Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, in 1972, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek, in 1975. Hughes is also under investigation for a series of other unsolved Eastbay slayings.

Bail for Hughes put at \$500,000

AUG 9 1979

Martinez—Bail for Phillip J. Hughes of Pleasanton on charges of murdering two young Contra Costa County women was set at \$500,000 at a hearing here yesterday.

Hughes was returned to jail in Alameda County, where he faces a third murder charge, and ordered to return to court next Thursday to enter a plea.

He is accused here of slaying Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem in 1972, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek in 1975.

In Alameda county he is accused of the 1974 slaying of Lisa Anne Berry of Oakland, whose body was recently found buried on a remote hillside.

Phillip Hughes to stand trial Nov. 26

AUG 31 1979

Oakland—Accused sex killer Phillip Hughes will stand trial Nov. 26 on charges of murdering 15-year-old Lisa Beery after abducting her in 1974.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge John Cooper set the trial date for

Hughes, who entered an innocent plea yesterday.

Hughes, a Pleasanton janitor, was arrested last month after his wife told police her husband had raped and killed several young women in recent years.

With the wife's help, police found Lisa's body buried on a hillside in Rheem.

In Contra Costa County, Hughes is charged with the 1972 killing of Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, and of the 1975 killing of Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

Hughes murder trial under way

MAR 21 1980

Final selection of a jury of eight women and four men was completed Thursday and opening arguments began today in the trial of accused sex-killer Phillip Hughes.

Hughes, a Pleasanton janitor, is charged with the 1974 murder of teen-ager Lisa Beery, who was abducted, knifed to death and buried in the hills near Rheem in Contra Costa County.

Hughes' wife, an accomplice in the crime who has been granted immunity from prosecution, is expected to be the star witness in the case, according to prosecutor Richard Iglehart.

Hughes has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. His lawyer, Assistant Public Defender James McWilliams, told prospective jurors that his client admits responsibility for the crime.

Lisa's body was discovered after Hughes' wife went to police last summer.

Jury selection lasted only two days, with the prosecutor excusing five potential jurors and the defense dismissing two. Each lawyer was allowed to excuse up to 26.

After his trial here, Hughes is slated to go on trial in Contra Costa County for two similar murders there.

Man held in three 1974

3 JUL 16 1979

A Pleasanton man is in being held in the Oakland city jail today on suspicion of the brutal murders of three Eastbay women, including one bright, religious teen-ager whose body was never found after she disappeared five years ago.

Phillip Joseph Hughes, a 31-year-old janitor, was to be arraigned this afternoon on charges of murdering Lisa Beery, a popular, 15-year-old Skyline High School student who was last seen on an afternoon in January, 1974, when she went into Montclair to cash a check.

Hughes also is being held on suspicion of the 1972 slaying of

19-year-old Maureen Patricia Field of Rheem and the 1975 killing of Letitia Fagot, a 25-year-old housewife who moved from San Francisco to Walnut Creek to escape the crime that plagued the city.

Hughes was arrested on Friday, the day after his wife, Susanne Perrin, went to Oakland police and spilled out a sordid, chilling tale of six years of murder and perversion that she said finally had become too much for her to bear.

Police Sgt. Alex Smith said Perrin told him that Beery was hitchhiking home on Jan. 26, 1974 after cashing a small baby-sit-

ting check when she and Hughes picked the girl up near the Warren Freeway.

Threatening her with a knife, Perrin said, they drove her to a house on Girvin Drive where Perrin was staying. There, Perrin said, Hughes took the girl to the basement, stabbed her to death and raped her.

He then drove her body out to Rheem and buried her in a shallow grave, Perrin told police. Officers were searching the area today in hopes of finding Beery's remains.

Perrin told police her husband also killed Field, who disap-

peared on her way home from work at the K-Mart store in Pleasant Hill on Nov. 14, 1972. Her body was found several months later alongside Morgan Territory Road near Clayton.

Perrin also said her husband had killed Fagot, whose nude, bludgeoned and strangled body was found in March, 1975 in the home she and her husband shared in Walnut Creek.

Smith said Perrin told him her husband was obsessed with acts of violence against women, and often forced her to submit to take off her clothes and submit to "simulated" killings. She said Hughes photographed her

murders

pretending to have been shot, strangled, hanged and stabbed to death, and on occasion throttled her until she actually passed out.

Hughes worked for the Able Building Maintenance Co. in San

Francisco, and was arrested at a Wells Fargo Bank branch in Concord, where the janitorial agency had sent him to work.

he is being held without bail in the Oakland city jail.

Hughes has two charges dropped

JUL 31 1979

Oakland—Kidnapping and rape charges against Phillip J. Hughes—also accused of killing 15-year-old Lisa Anne Beery here—were dismissed yesterday, but the murder charge still stands.

Municipal Court Judge Roderic Duncan issued the ruling because the three-year statute of limitations for kidnapping and rape had run out in the 1974 case.

Duncan denied a request by Hughes' attorney, deputy public defender James McWilliams, to dismiss the murder charge because there is no statute of limitation in killings.

He also denied McWilliams' request for a delay in entering a plea for Hughes on the murder charge. Duncan entered a plea of innocent for Hughes and set Aug. 13 for a preliminary hearing.

Police think missing girl's body found

JUL 29 1979

Oakland—The Alameda County coroner's office today will examine a skeleton found on a remote Contra Costa County hillside yesterday during a search for the body of Lisa Anne Beery, a teen-ager police say was murdered five years ago.

Police have been searching for remains of the girl for three days—ever since an Oakland woman told them that her husband raped and murdered the child in January of 1974 and that she and her husband had buried the body on the hillside in Rheem Valley.

The skeleton was dislodged by a bulldozer about a foot and a half under the earth's surface and police sent for an anthropologist who identified the remains as those of a young human.

The skeleton, which was fully recovered, had two rings on the left hand. Police would not describe the rings, but Oakland Police Sgt. Alex Smith, who is in charge of the search, said it was almost certain that the skeleton is that of Lisa Beery.

The remains were found in the area pinpointed by Susanne Perrin, the wife of Phillip J. Hughes Jr., a 31-year-old Pleasanton janitor who has been charged with murder, kidnapping and rape charges, and is suspected by police in the disappearance of eight other young women since 1970 as well.

Perrin said she had been too frightened of her husband to tell until now what happened to Lisa Beery, a 15-year-old Skyline High School student who vanished while walking to her Montclair District home.

Perrin said she and Hughes abducted the girl at knifepoint, then Hughes took the girl into the basement of a house on Girvin Drive where they were house sitting. Perrin told police her husband called her downstairs a half hour later and she found him covered with blood and the nude girl dead on the floor.

Two days later, she said, they buried the girl in a shallow grave on the remote Contra Costa hillside.

Janitor is charged in slayings of two more

3 JUL 24 1979

Martinez—Phillip J. Hughes, the janitor accused of killing an Oakland teen-ager who disappeared five years ago, was charged today with the additional murders of two Contra Costa women.

Hughes was charged in Municipal Court here with the 1972 stabbing-strangulation murder of Maureen Patricia Field of Rheem and the 1975 strangulation of Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek.

Hughes, 31, has been in jail in Oakland since July 13, when he was arrested after his wife went

to police and told them her husband had killed the three women.

Authorities in Contra Costa and Alameda counties are still investigating him as a possible suspect in at least four other killings and two disappearances over the past nine years.

Field, 19, disappeared on her way home from work at the K-Mart store in Pleasant Hill on Nov. 14, 1972. Two days later, her parents received a phone call from an unidentified man

Continued back page, col. 2

Continued from Page 1

who told them he had killed their daughter.

Her decomposed body was found several months later alongside Morgan Territory Road near Clayton. Hughes' wife, Susanne Perrin, told police she had helped her husband dump it there after he stabbed and strangled Field to death in a remote section of Moraga.

A purse, wallet and notebook belonging to Field were among items police found when they searched Hughes' Pleasanton home last week.

Hughes also is charged with killing Fagot, a 25-year-old bank teller who moved to Walnut Creek from San Francisco because she was afraid of crime in the city.

Her nude, bludgeoned body was found on March 19, 1975, in the tract home she shared with her husband, who was away on a business trip at the time.

Hughes had worked with Fa-

got at a San Francisco bank, according to his wife. She told police that on the day Fagot was murdered Hughes called her and told her he had killed the woman.

Hughes was charged last week with the slaying of Lisa Anne Beery, a 15-year-old Skyline High School student who disappeared in 1974 on her way to cash a check in the Montclair district of Oakland.

Perrin told police that she and her husband picked Beery up while hitchhiking and drove her to a house in Montclair, where, Perrin said, Hughes raped and stabbed her to death. Perrin said the couple then drove her body out to Rheem and buried it on a grassy hillside.

Beery's skeleton, with rings on its fingers and long red hair still clinging to the skull, was unearthed last week after both Perrin and Hughes led deputies to the site. Coroner's deputies are still examining the bones to determine the exact cause of death.

Psychiatrist testifies Hughes was a necrophiliac but sane

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

Phillip Hughes is a necrophiliac who killed as part of a self-imposed "therapy" aimed at helping him understand his need to have sex with dead bodies, a prosecution psychiatrist alleged Monday.

Dr. Hugh Winig said Hughes murdered Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery and two women in Contra Costa County because he had "an actual need to kill someone and have sex with them after they were dead" — and because he was trying to cure his mental illness.

"It was as if he was treating himself, (as if) this was part of his therapy," the psychiatrist said. "He would understand his emotional problem if he could experience killing someone and go over his feelings."

Hughes last week was found guilty of first-degree murder for the 1974 murder of Lisa.

Winig, who examined him after his arrest last summer, was called to testify as the jury began considering Hughes' plea of innocent by reason of insanity.

Winig said that, although he suffers from "a mental disturbance of some serious significance," Hughes is legally sane. The doctor also said he urged Hughes to submit to an injection of a so-called truth serum to probe whether he is also responsible for any of five other unsolved Eastbay murders that some investigators suspect he committed.

Winig said Hughes rejected the idea with the remark, "I don't want to be responsible for any

more than I have to be responsible for."

Winig's testimony contrasted sharply with that of three defense experts. Earlier in the trial, they said Hughes is a paranoid schizophrenic who had no control over what he was doing when he abducted the Beery girl, knifed her to death, and buried the body to escape detection.

All three also said sex had nothing to do with either the murder of Lisa or the hundreds of occasions on which Hughes strangled his wife to unconsciousness during intercourse.

Winig flatly rejected the diagnosis — and the idea that sex was not involved in the killings of Lisa, Maureen Field and Letitia Fagot.

"It was the need to see a dead body that aroused him," Winig said. "It was the dead body that was eroticized."

Winig said Hughes' necrophilia arose out of fear that he could not perform adequately in normal sex.

By engaging in sex with a dead body, he said, Hughes "felt secure and not anxious in intercourse — he felt potent and could have a climax."

Hughes got similar excitement, Winig said, when he strangled his wife or girlfriends to unconsciousness before intercourse.

Winig said Hughes, like many sexual deviants, was deeply ashamed of his problem and tried to resolve it. But in his case, the doctor suggested, the cure may have been worse than the disease.

He said Hughes told him he

would try to summon up his necrophilous urges, then strangle his wife or abduct and kill a woman in an attempt to examine and understand his sick desires.

Winig said that when Hughes told him he had stopped strangling his wife in the months before his arrest, the doctor immediately feared he had been acting out his "chronic deviant need" by hunting down innocent victims.

Because Hughes professed to have little memory of his crimes, Winig suggested the truth serum, which Hughes ultimately refused.

Still, the doctor questioned Hughes closely about the October 1978 strangulation murder of Armida Wiltsey, who was attacked while she jogged near the Lafayette Reservoir.

Winig said he asked Hughes about the crime because he bore a "striking resemblance" to a police composite sketch of the suspect in the unsolved crime.

Winig said Hughes, when asked about the crime, said, "I don't think I did it."

To Winig, that suggested Hughes may have been "repressing" the unpleasant memory of the crime.

Winig said his sessions with Hughes convinced him that the defendant knew killing was illegal and could have stopped himself from acting out had he chosen to do so — the legal criteria for sanity.

"It seemed to me he had really fine-tuned his control of whether he had killed someone or not," Winig said, because Hughes always stopped short of killing his wife during the strangling sessions.

Jurors ponder sex-slayer's mind

By Frank Wootten
Tribune Staff Writer

OCT 21 1980

MARTINEZ — A jury began attempting today to sort out the conflicting testimony of seven mental experts on the workings of the confused mind of sex slayer Phillip Joseph Hughes.

If Hughes isn't insane, then nobody ever was. Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee told the jury Monday afternoon in his closing arguments in the sanity phase of Hughes' trial for the killings of Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

He cited the testimony of his expert witnesses, who pictured Hughes as a schizophrenic with a mind so confused he was unable to recognize he had committed murder.

Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell, referring to the testimony of experts he had called, was just as insistent that Hughes at the time of the two slayings was disturbed but legally sane.

It wasn't a case of a schizophrenic killing women to save the world from outer space, he told the jury.

Superior Court Judge William R. Channell then dismissed the jurors for the night.

It was the second time Hughes has been through a trial and then the sanity phase.

An Alameda County jury earlier this year convicted Hughes of the 1974 slaying of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery and then determined he was legally sane at the time of the killing.

Walnut Creek psychiatrist Hugh Winig, the final witness called Monday by Waddell, told the jury Hughes "is an extremely disturbed individual, but his symptoms do not rise to the criteria of legal insanity in this state."

Winig, the only witness of the day, said Hughes did not recall the bizarre torture slayings because he tried to forget as much as possible of what he did remember.

He quoted Hughes as saying, "I keep forgetting more and more stuff and then I can work on the more positive stuff."

Winig said Hughes didn't remember events "not because he didn't know what he was doing but because of repression of unpleasant memories."

Bay

Psychiatrist testifies murderer is a 'sexual sadist'

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

OCT 19 1980

MARTINEZ — Phillip Joseph Hughes was a sexual sadist and fully aware of the gravity of his actions when he killed two Contra Costa County women in 1972 and 1975, a psychiatrist testified Friday in Contra Costa Superior Court.

The testimony, given by prosecution witness Dr. George Ponomareff, contradicts statements given Thursday by other mental health experts who have appeared in the sanity phase of

Hughes' murder trial.

Hughes was convicted Tuesday of killing 19-year-old Maureen Field of Moraga and 25-year-old Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek. The second phase is being held solely to determine whether — as Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee contends — Hughes was insane at the time of the slayings.

But Friday's contradictory testimony by Ponomareff was further evidence that as the two attorneys probe the gray line between sanity and insanity, there

will be no black and white answer as to Hughes' state of mind.

"Initially, I thought he suffered from a schizophrenic illness," Ponomareff said, citing the diagnosis reached by the doctors who testified Thursday.

"But there was no evidence of a schizophrenic breakdown and no evidence of psychosis except when he was killing someone."

Ponomareff, who practices in Hayward and examined Hughes on three occasions, defined sexual sadism as the "inflicting of physical or psychological suffer-

ing on another person in order to achieve sexual excitation."

He said he believes it is a lifelong condition which began early in Hughes' childhood.

The doctor said he viewed Hughes' alleged inability to recall incidents of the murders as a self-benefiting ploy.

"I'm amazed at the lack of recall of three dramatic killings," he said, adding Hughes' 1974 murder of Lisa Beery in Oakland to the other two.

"It does not make sense medically that amnesia of this sort

would occur only at the times of the murders. I think he may have been acting in his own interest not to remember some of the exact details."

The psychiatrist told prosecutor Jack Waddell he believes Hughes' decisions to kill the women were made consciously and with deliberation.

Dothee consistently attempted to invalidate the psychiatrist's testimony by implying he was not well-versed on some aspects of Hughes' history in the background of the case.

Hughes is mentally ill, experts say

By Bob Loomis
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — Two defense psychiatrists and one for the prosecution agreed Thursday in the opening of the sanity phase of convicted murderer Phillip Hughes' trial that he is severely mentally ill, an illness that manifested itself in his breaking into 3,000 to 4,000 Rheem area homes to enact death fantasies, one of the witnesses said.

But whether Hughes can be judged legally insane at the time he killed Maureen Field of Moraga in 1972 or Letitia Fagot in 1975 varied in testimony from the psychiatrists testifying for Public Defender Ken Dothee and Prosecutor Jack Waddell.

The two defense witnesses, Drs. Karen S. Gudiksen and Paul Berg, said they believed Hughes fit the legal definition of insanity when he committed the killings because he could not appreciate the criminality of his acts and could not make his actions conform to the law.

Waddell attempted to shake their testimony by eliciting admissions that they could not be absolutely certain that Hughes was legally insane when he committed the killings, but were drawing almost certain conclusions from what was known of the killings and of Hughes psychological history.

The prosecutor pursued that line when he called his first witness, Dr. Kenneth Hjortsvang, a psychiatrist who testified that although he was certain Hughes is severely disturbed, he could not say Hughes was legally insane during the killings because there is insufficient evidence to that conclusion.

Hjortsvang, who interviewed Hughes three times after his arrest, said under cross-examination by Dothee that Hughes told of entering 3,000 to 4,000 Rheem area homes surreptitiously to act out death fantasies similar to those he had since about the fifth grade.

Apparently Hughes, who was known to commit burglaries, stole nothing on those occasions,

See HUGHES, Page B-2

Richmond — A man was killed and his teen-age passenger

Continued from Page B-1

said Hjortsvang. The physician said he had no hesitation describing Hughes as severely mentally ill, adding that he "was then and is now."

As he has throughout his trials, Hughes sat virtually expressionless and motionless throughout the day's testimony.

He was found guilty Tuesday by the four-man, eight-woman jury before Superior Court Judge William R. Channell of first-degree murder in the stabbing of Field and the strangling of Fagot.

That concluded the first phase of his current trial. Earlier this year he was found guilty in an Alameda County trial of the first-degree murder of Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery. In the second phase of that trial, he was found sane.

The sanity phase of the current trial was to continue before Judge Channell today.

Hughes trial for killing two *Ph. 11/2p* ready to start

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

SEP 16 1980

MARTINEZ — It has been eight years since the body of a young Orinda-area woman was unearthed from a grisly burial site near Clayton and five years since a Walnut Creek woman was found bludgeoned to death in her home.

See HUGHES, Page B-2

but time was not erased the memories of those cases or the severity of the charges against Phillip Joseph Hughes, a former Pleasanton janitor.

Hughes is charged with murdering both and goes on trial here this week. It is a case that has involved countless hours of police investigation over the years — a case prosecuting and defense attorneys have been carefully preparing for several months.

Prosecutor Jack Waddell and Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee were sequestered most of Monday in the chambers of Superior Court Judge William R. Channell, apparently laying the groundwork for a trial expected to take three or four weeks.

A jury is expected to be chosen by Wednesday.

Lawyers and court sources indicate the key issue in the case will be Hughes' state of mind at the time of the murders of 19-year-old Maureen Fields of

Rheem and 25-year-old Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek.

The prosecution is seeking first-degree murder convictions, but Hughes has entered pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity to both charges.

"I think the evidence will show there was diminished capacity, and that would mean manslaughter," Dothee said.

That was the same argument waged, and won, by attorneys for Dan White, who was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

But it was also the same argument waged, and lost, in Alameda County earlier this year. In a secondary phase of the trial after finding Hughes guilty of murdering a 15-year-old Oakland schoolgirl, the jury ruled he was sane at the time of the act.

Prosecutor Jack Waddell said he may call two dozen witnesses

to the stand during the trial, including Hughes' wife, psychiatrists and relatives of the two victims.

His wife, Susanne Perrin, is likely to be the star witness. She went to Oakland police last summer and told a sordid tale of various murders covering a period of several years. Based on her testimony, police believe Hughes may be responsible for several other unsolved murders in the Eastbay.

Technically, if Hughes is convicted of the two murders in Contra Costa County, he will have no additional time added to his life sentence from Alameda County.

The law at the time of the offenses did not allow consecutive life terms as it now does. But Waddell said additional convictions would be given heavy consideration when Hughes is considered for parole, and would probably mean a longer prison term.

SEP 24 1980

Double-murder trial delayed

MARTINEZ — The trial of Phillip Joseph Hughes, who is charged with two murders, was delayed Tuesday because of the illness of his attorney.

The opening of the trial, which is expected to last three or four weeks, was reset for this morning, but will be delayed again if Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee remains ill.

Hughes was convicted early this year in Alameda County of murdering an Oakland school girl. His Contra Costa trial concerns the unusual sex-oriented murders of two young central county women.

A jury was selected Monday afternoon after a week of questioning of 80 prospective jurors.

Trial recalls two brutal killings

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

SEP 25 1980

MARTINEZ — Phillip Joseph Hughes sat stoically, as if in a trance, Wednesday while a prosecutor called him "sexually deviant" and graphically described two brutal murders Hughes is charged with committing.

Hughes' quiet impassiveness was a stark contrast to the subject discussed by Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell, who referred to the stabbing deaths as vicious.

Waddell made the remarks in his opening statement of a methodically-prepared trial expected to last three or four weeks in Contra Costa County Superior Court before Judge William R. Channell.

It is an unusual case that will pull out of old police files two of Contra Costa's most notorious murder mysteries. The first was the 1972 stabbing of 19-year-old Maureen Field of the Moraga area, and the other the 1975 stabbing of 25-year-old Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek.

Both bodies were found nude and with numerous stab wounds. Field was found three months after her death in a remote area

near Clayton and Fagot in her Walnut Creek home.

Hughes, who was convicted early this year of a separate murder in Alameda County and is suspected of committing at least six other unsolved Eastbay murders, has entered pleas of innocent and not guilty by reason of insanity to both Contra Costa charges.

But Waddell, who is seeking first-degree murder convictions, told a jury of eight women and four men the evidence will show Hughes did "deliberately and premeditatedly" murder the women.

Addressing Hughes' state of mind, which is certain to be a central issue in the trial, Waddell contended Hughes has several types of mental disorders, "but none of the type which would cause any reduction in his capacity."

Public Defender Ken Dothee has said he believes the evidence will show Hughes committed the acts under diminished capacity. If that reasoning is held by the jury, the probable result would be convictions on manslaughter.

The Field and Fagot cases remained total mysteries until late

last year, when Hughes' ex-wife, Sue Perrin, went to Oakland police and said she and Hughes had been involved in a number of murders.

"She told (an Oakland police man) a tale of murder and brutality that made his hair stand on end," Waddell said.

She also told of being coerced by her husband into a bizarre sexual ritual that involved his pretending to strangle her and her feigning death during intercourse.

Perrin told police Hughes came to her in 1972, said he had been involved in a murder and needed help disposing of the body. Together they went to Moraga, pulled Field's bloody body out of some dense brush and took it to Clayton, she said.

"Two days later," Waddell said, "there was a phone call which shattered the Field family's life from then until this day. Mr. Field picked up the phone and the caller said:

"Is this Mr. Field? Is this Maureen's father? I'm calling about your daughter. She's dead. I killed her."

The call was made by Hughes, Waddell said.

Court told gruesome details of murders

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — A macabre tale of bizarre sex rituals, enactment of death scenes and the anatomy of two brutal murders was told in court here Friday by accused murderer Phillip Joseph Hughes two lovers.

Hughes' ex-girlfriend Cathy Carson and ex-wife Sue Perrin calmly told of horrifying experiences with Hughes and his haunting "need to kill."

Both were romantically involved with him in a love triangle that began in the early 1970s and ended last year when Perrin told the whole tale to police.

The details of those experiences evoked sighs and expressions of surprise and disgust by some jurors and others present in the courtroom of Contra Costa Superior Court Judge William R. Channell on the third day of Hughes' murder trial.

Hughes is charged with killing Maureen Field of Moraga in 1972 and Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek in 1975.

"He told me he had a desire to kill Cathy (Carson)," Perrin testified. "He said he needed to kill someone else to restrain himself from killing Cathy."

She said she willingly supplied him prospective murder victims by getting addresses of women she worked with at a San Francisco bank. One of those women

was Fagot, who was bludgeoned, raped and robbed in her home.

Perrin, who was married to Hughes from 1973 until early this year, said that in February of 1979 Hughes told her he could relieve his desire to kill if he could compile a series of photos of nude crime victims.

She posed for him as he took various sadistically-oriented pictures of her in the nude and feigning death or severe injury. In some of them, she had items tied around her neck as though she had been strangled or hanged.

The sex ritual to which both Perrin and Carson referred involved Hughes' strangulation of them during intercourse. They said they were never seriously harmed, but were often rendered physically helpless.

Both women said they continued their relationship with Hughes primarily out of fear that they would be killed if they did not comply with his wishes. Both said he had threatened to kill them.

The trial will continue Wednesday and is expected to last up to four weeks.

Hughes was convicted early this year in Alameda County of killing Oakland schoolgirl Lisa Beery. He is suspected of killing at least six other women.

State rests in bizarre death trial

OCT 2 1980

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — The prosecution rested its case Wednesday in the murder trial of Phillip Joseph Hughes after playing for the jury a recording of Hughes' conversation with Oakland police after his arrest last year.

In the conversation with Sgt. Alex Smith, Hughes never outwardly admitted killing either Maureen Field or Letitia Fagot, although he vaguely described being at the murder scenes and told of disposing of Field's body.

During the interview his recollection of the facts seemed quite foggy, and he said at one point that the events seem "like many, many dreams."

He clearly state that he found Field seriously wounded and bloody in Moraga one evening and "she asked me if I could kill her," ostensibly in a gesture of mercy.

He said he did not recall if he actually did so, although he remembered putting her body in the trunk of a car and taking it to a remote area near Clayton.

"She was saying an act of contrition," he told Smith, stating that he wanted Field's family to know that.

Defense attorney Ken Dothee has not indicated whether he will call witnesses when the trial resumes Friday. It has been speculated that he will call psychiatrists or psychologists to the stand in an effort to try to establish that Hughes had diminished mental capacity at the time of the murders.

Hughes has entered pleas of innocent and not guilty by reason of insanity to the two murder charges. Field, of Moraga, was killed in 1972, and Fagot, of Walnut Creek, in 1975.

If convictions are returned by the Contra Costa County Superior Court jury, a second phase of the trial will be held to determine whether Hughes is sane.

Hughes was arrested last year after his wife went to police and told of a seven-year ordeal of bizarre sex rituals and murder.

Psychologist testifies in Hughes trial

By Frank Wootten

Tribune Staff Writer

OCT 4 1980

MARTINEZ — The bizarre activities of Phillip Joseph Hughes were attributed here Friday to the mind of a man so mentally disturbed since early childhood he became a "spectator and not a participant" in the sex killings with which he is charged.

Dr. Paul S. Berg, an Oakland psychologist, described Hughes as a paranoid schizophrenic as the defense opened its case in the

trial for the slayings of Maureen Field of Moraga in 1972 and Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek in 1975.

He told the jury in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge William R. Channel that Hughes had strange and bizarre ideas that made him see things in ways that were not real and affected his ability to recognize he had committed homicide.

As a child, Berg said, Hughes would not allow his mother to touch him because he felt he was

dead and if she touched him the mother would know he was dead.

"As an eight-year-old" Berg said, "he was confusing sexual-like things with violence. He felt closer to animals than people, yet he drowned mice and birds."

In his opening arguments, Deputy Public defender Kenneth Dothee told the jurors they would hear the name of Lisa Beery with all of the gory details of how Hughes stood with a knife in his hand and nudged her bloody body.

Hughes murder trial case focuses on sanity

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — At the age of 8, Philip Joseph Hughes mutilated dolls and poked pins in insects.

At 12, he killed small animals and threw them into a swimming pool. As an adolescent, he sometimes thought of himself as dead and enacted death scenes.

Did those acts, described in court by several psychologists who examined Hughes, constitute a normal childhood? Or were they the beginning signs of a psychosis that led to two Contra Costa

County murders when Hughes was an adult?

That question, and the nebulous gray area between sanity and insanity are being explored in the third week of the Contra Costa Superior Court trial of Hughes. He is accused of murdering Maureen Field of Moraga in 1972 and Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek three years later and has entered pleas of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity.

It is the sanity issue which has become the focal point of the case, and the defense got many of the answers it

was looking for Monday from two psychologists who agree Hughes suffers from paranoid schizophrenia.

"He has confused sex, love and violence all his life," Dr. Paul Berg testified.

Hughes' whole life has been a classic display of schizophrenia, Berg indicated. His testimony presented a picture of a man who at times appeared and acted as normal as the next person, but at other times had difficulty distinguishing between reality and fantasy.

"He's like a steam machine. Sometimes a steam machine is going to blow,

and sometimes that's not the best way to get (tension) out. Obviously, it wasn't for Mr. Hughes," Berg said.

Both Berg and Dr. Nancy Van Ceuvering supported Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee's premise that Hughes was not aware of, or was out of control of, his actions at the time of the murders.

They disputed theories that Hughes may merely be suffering from anti-social personality.

Prosecutor Jack Waddell pointedly questioned the process by which the psychologists termed Hughes psychotic,

issue

inferring repeatedly that standardized tests used for such purposes are vague, ambiguous and sometimes meaningless.

Waddell is attempting to establish that the murders were premeditated and committed by a man fully aware of his actions. If that theory is held by the jury, first-degree murder convictions are likely.

If Dothee's contention that there was diminished capacity is upheld, a manslaughter verdict is likely.

Dothee has the right to require a secondary phase of the trial solely to address the issue of sanity.

Jury witnesses two faces of an accused killer

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

OCT 9 1980

MARTINEZ — Only one man is on the minds of 12 people who are meeting today in a small room in the Contra Costa County Courthouse to decide the fate of accused murderer Phillip Joseph Hughes.

But in effect, the jury's job is to examine two very different men and determine which is responsible for two of Contra Costa's most notorious slayings. Contrasting pictures were painted by the defense and prosecution.

One depicts Phillip Hughes, a diabolical killer who took great pleasure in stalking murder victims and methodically plotted his crimes, fully in control of his senses.

The other is Phillip Hughes, a man so mentally ill he doesn't know the difference between life and death, love and hate, violence and kindness. He couldn't control a mysterious desire to kill.

To the defense and prosecuting attorneys, who addressed the jury Wednesday in closing arguments of the three-week trial, the facts are as clear as day. But their interpretations of them are as contrasting as day and night.

"There is no question the deaths were the product of a mental illness," Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee told the jury, largely basing his surmisal on the testimony of four mental health experts he called to the stand during the trial.

All four diagnosed Hughes as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, a form of psychosis.

"They have told you he was incapable of malice, of premeditating and deliberating, and of forming an intent to kill," he added.

Dothee told the jury he is sure of two things. First, Hughes killed both women, and second, "he is mentally sick."

He pleaded for a verdict of voluntary manslaughter based on diminished capacity.

Waddell, after casting doubt on the ability of psychiatrists to determine the state of Hughes' mind at the times of the 1972 and 1975 murders, warned the jury not to fall prey to the "fragile foundation" of the diagnoses.

He contended the testimony was presented to "divert your attention from the horrible crimes." He also said there was no compelling logic drawing a connection between Hughes' illness and the crimes.

He asserted that even if Hughes were a paranoid schizophrenic, that would not preclude him from premeditated murder.

"If (the facts of the case) do not justify a verdict of murder in the first degree, then no man anywhere in the world has ever been guilty of first degree murder," Waddell said.

"I'm not saying he's normal. He's obviously

See FACES, Page C-2

Murder case goes to jury

By Steve Lopez
Tribune Staff Writer

OCT 8 1987

MARTINEZ — Phillip Joseph Hughes attorney rested his case Tuesday after sending two more psychiatrists to the stand in an effort to establish Hughes suffered from diminished capacity at the time of the two murders he is charged with.

The jury of four men and eight women is expected to begin deliberating today following closing arguments by Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee and Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell.

During three weeks of testimony in the Contra Costa Superior Court trial, there has been virtually no effort by Dothee to prove Hughes did not commit the murders of Maureen Field in 1972 and Letitia Fagot in 1975.

The focus of the testimony and the line of questioning have centered on the issue of Hughes' state of mind. It is a case quite similar to that of Dan White, who was convicted of manslaughter in the killings of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

Martin Blinder, one of the defense psychiatrists who helped establish a diminished capacity ruling in the White case, was called to the stand in the Hughes case Tuesday.

Blinder said he diagnosed Hughes as a schizophrenic, as did the other mental health experts. But he said he could not be sure about Hughes' state of mind at the time of the murders.

He refused to say Hughes has diminished capacity, saying that is not a medical diagnostic term. He said such a finding is a legal determination and the job of a jury, not a doctor.

Waddell continued the aggressive cross-examining that he has peppered all four mental health experts with. He has generally questioned the entire process by which mental health experts diagnose and label patients, and has maintained that Hughes' acts were pre-meditated and planned despite psychiatric testimony to the contrary.

An example of his line of questioning came Thursday during his cross-examination of Dr. Karen Gudiksen, who said she believed Hughes was in "dissociative states" — a psychiatric term indicating he was not in touch with reality — at the times of both murders.

"Are you saying he just jumped into the dissociative state ... committed the murder ... then jumped out?" he cynically asked.

The answer was yes, although Gudiksen objected to use of the terms "jumping in" and "jumping out."

APR 18 1980

Hughes' slaying trial postponed

Tribune Martinez Bureau

The Contra Costa County trial of Philip J. Hughes on two sex slaying charges has been delayed to May 27 to avoid publicity during his sentencing for a third slaying for which he has been convicted in Alameda County.

Hughes, formerly a janitor who lived in Pleasanton, was scheduled to go on trial Monday on charges he killed Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, in 1972, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek, in 1975.

Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee asked for the delay Wednesday on grounds publicity resulting from the sentencing could interfere with his right for a fair trial.

Hughes will be sentenced May 16 for the 1974 slaying of Lisa Ann Beery, 15, of Oakland.

Judge delays Hughes trial

APR 17 1980
① MARTINEZ — The Contra Costa County trial of Philip J. Hughes on two sex slaying charges was delayed for more than a month Wednesday to avoid conducting the trial during the publicity likely to result from his sentencing for a third slaying for which he has been convicted in Alameda County.

Hughes, formerly a janitor who lived in Pleasanton, was scheduled to go on trial Monday on charges he killed Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem in 1972, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek in 1975. Hughes will be sentenced May 16 for the 1974 slaying of Lisa Ann Beery, 15, of Oakland. Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arna-son continued his Contra Costa County trial to May 27.

2nd Hughes trial postponed

Tribune Martinez Bureau

MAY 10 1980

The Contra Costa County murder trial of Philip Hughes, who is accused of killing two women, has been rescheduled from May 27 to September 15.

Superior Court Judge Richard Arnason granted the postponement at the request of Deputy Public Defender Ken Dothee, who said he had not received the transcript of the trial last month in Alameda County Superior Court where Hughes was convicted of murdering Lisa Ann Beery of Oakland in 1974.

Arnason also observed that public interest in the sentencing of Hughes for the Beery murder, which is scheduled for next Friday, might make difficult the selection of a jury this month.

In Contra Costa County, Hughes is accused of murdering Maureen Patricia Fields, 19, of Rheem, in 1972, and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek, in 1975.

maker
Staff Writers

A Pleasanton janitor is being held in the Oakland city jail on suspicion of the brutal murders of three young Eastbay women over the past seven years.

Phillip Joseph Hughes, a pale, heavy-set 31-year-old, was arrested on Friday, the day after his distraught wife went to police with a sordid, chilling tale of at least six years of murder and perversion that she said had finally become too much for her to bear.

Hughes was to be arraigned this afternoon on charges of murdering Lisa Anne Beery, a popular Skyline High School student who disappeared five years ago.

Contra Costa County sheriff's deputies said Hughes also is "the prime suspect" in the 1972 slaying of 19-year-old Maureen Patricia Field of Rheem and the 1975 killing of Letitia Fagot, a 25-year-old housewife who moved from San Francisco to Walnut Creek to escape the crime she feared in the city.

Lisa Beery, a cheerful redhead, was last seen on Jan. 26, 1974, when she went to a bank in Montclair to cash two small checks. Her father, real estate developer John Beery, expected her home shortly so the two of them could go sailing.

Oakland Police Sgt. Alex Smith said Hughes' willowy, blond wife, Susanne Perrin, sobbed as she told him that she and Hughes spotted Beery hitchhiking near the Warren Freeway sometime after noon.

The couple, who were not yet married, picked the girl up and, threatening her with a knife, drove her to a house on Girvin Drive in Montclair where Perrin was staying.

There, Perrin said, Hughes took the girl to the basement.

Continued back page, col. 5



arders...

stabbed her to death and then raped her.

He then drove her body out to Rheem and buried it in a shallow grave, Perrin told police. Officers were digging in the grassy hillside area today in search of Beery's remains.

As recently as 1976, Beery's parents expressed faith that their daughter was still alive. That year, when she would have turned 18, she became eligible to inherit \$200,000 from her grandmother's estate. Her father said the money would be held in trust until the family heard from her.

Perrin told police her husband also killed Field, who disappeared on her way home from work at the K-Mart store in Pleasant Hill on Nov. 14, 1972. Two days later, her parents received a phone call from a man who said he had killed their daughter.

Field's body was found several months later alongside Morgan Territory Road near Clayton. Perrin told police she helped her husband dump it there.

Perrin also said her husband killed Fagot, a bank teller whose nude, bludgeoned and strangled body was found on March 19, 1975 in the tract home she shared with her husband.

Smith said Perrin told him

her husband was obsessed with acts of violence against women, and often forced her to take off her clothes and submit to "simulated" killings.

She said Hughes photographed her pretending to have been shot, strangled, hanged and stabbed to death, and on occasion throttled her and held her head under water until she actually passed out.

Hughes, a one-time professional bowler who attended Campolindo High School in Moraga, had been working for the Able Building Maintenance Co. in San Francisco. He was arrested at a Wells Fargo Bank branch in Concord, where the janitorial agency had assigned him.

Selection of jury begins in Hughes trial

By Lloyd Boles
Tribune Staff Writer

It's official — the 1974 sex slaying of 15-year-old Lisa Ann Beery is no longer a "whodunit," a defense lawyer told prospective jurors Wednesday.

Defense lawyer James McWilliams nodded toward his client seated at the counsel table and said, "It's the man sitting at my right who committed an act causing the death of a girl called Lisa."

His client, Phillip J. Hughes, 31-year-old Pleasanton janitor, sat impassively as his lawyer told jury candidate after candidate that "everyone in this courtroom is saddened by the girl's death."

But McWilliams contended the prospective jurors should entertain no thoughts of punishment and should stay aware that Hughes' mental condition may have something to do with mitigating the crime.

Hughes, who has told police that he not only killed the Montclair teen-ager in January 1974 but also killed two Contra Costa County women in 1972 and 1975, has pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity.

This means that the same jury, when finally selected, may sit on two trials.

If it acquits him, there won't be a second phase. But if the jury convicts Hughes of any degree of murder, then it will hear evidence in a second trial on whether he was insane at the time of the offense.

McWilliams said during pretrial hearings that his defense in the first — guilt — phase of the trial will be based on the "diminished capacity" theory that some overwhelming force beyond Hughes' control caused him to kidnap, sexually assault and then slash to death the pretty school-girl.

Prosecutor Richard Iglehart

made it clear in his questioning of prospective jurors that he is seeking a first-degree murder conviction on two well-used legal theories:

First, that the killing was done with careful planning (premeditation) and malice and thus is murder of the first degree. Second, under the so-called felony murder rule — a statute that says if the murder was done during the commission of a felony (rape) it automatically is first degree.

McWilliams focused his questions on whether jury candidates believed mental illness is real as opposed to being feigned and whether psychiatrists could be believed as much as anybody else.

Iglehart wanted to know whether they would discount testimony by the defendant's wife, Sue Perrin, because she took part in the Beery crime and was

granted immunity to provide evidence against her husband.

Most potential jurors didn't seem bothered about this.

Some of the women jurors, particularly those with children, admitted they were not comfortable sitting there and, as one of them said, "We can't help feeling sorry for her parents."

The potential jurors were closely quizzed on whether they had read anything or had seen or heard anything on radio or television about the case that would bias them.

Some of them had "heard the name Lisa Ann Beery" sometime in the past, but none could remember specific details of the case.

The case is being heard in the Alameda County Superior Court of Judge Harold Hove. Jury selection was expected to take most of today, and testimony in the case may not begin until Monday.

Life terms in women's murders

By Wanda MacClarín
Tribune Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — Phillip Hughes, convicted of the gruesome and bizarre murders of two women in Contra Costa County, was sentenced Tuesday to two life sentences, which he will serve concurrently with a life term he received in Alameda County for another murder.

"In my opinion Mr. Hughes (was) a very dangerous man in the early '70s and still is and still represents a substantial threat to the community," Contra Costa Superior Court Judge William R. Channell said before sentencing Hughes.

"He has absolutely no insight into his problems, and I would suspect is not capable of insight into his problems," Channell added.

"Were I allowed under the law ... you would be sentenced to two consecutive sentences rather than two concurrent sentences," Channell told Hughes, who remained expressionless, his body lax and his face blank, as he was throughout his trial.

The former Pleasanton janitor showed emotion only after the court session, when he stood up and shook hands with his lawyer, Public Defender Ken Dothee. As Dothee spoke to him, Hughes smiled twice and thanked him.

The death penalty was unconstitutional when Hughes commit-

ted the crimes, so Hughes was given life sentences. State law required that life terms be served at the same time instead of one after the other.

Hughes will be eligible for parole in seven years, but presumably the strong recommendations that he be imprisoned for his entire life will weigh heavily with the parole board.

In Contra Costa County last month, Hughes was convicted of the 1972 murder of 19-year-old Maureen Field of Moraga and the 1975 murder of 25-year-old Letitia Fagot of Walnut Creek. In Alameda County earlier this year, he was convicted of the 1974 murder of 15-year-old Lisa Beery of Oakland.

Hughes viciously stabbed or bludgeoned all his victims, and raped at least two. He also repeatedly strangled and otherwise brutalized his wife and ex-girlfriend during sex.

A majority of the Contra Costa jurors, Dothee said, agreed after the trial on three things: that Hughes is "clearly very sick," that he should be jailed in a maximum security prison, and that he should have the most extensive psychiatric treatment available.

In the future Hughes might "conceivably" be released in the community, Dothee said, and for the good of society he should receive the best possible psy-

atric care. Therefore Dothee asked Channell to recommend imprisoning Hughes at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, and Channell agreed.

Dothee said after court recessed that he plans to appeal the guilty verdicts within the next 60 days, based on the denial of three legal motions before the trial started.

Dothee had asked for a change of venue because of the publicity surrounding the case. He had also filed two motions to suppress as evidence the statements Hughes made to police, and the findings of a search of Hughes' home and car. All three motions were denied.

Murder conviction upheld

SAN FRANCISCO — The state Court of Appeal Friday upheld the murder conviction of former Pleasanton janitor Phillip Hughes for the slaying of two Contra Costa County women in the early 1970s.

AUG 13 1983

Hughes, 35, was sentenced to life in prison in 1980 for the stabbing of Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga in 1972 and the rape and strangulation of Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek in 1975. He was arrested in 1979 when his wife went to police with details of three murders.

Serial killer Hughes up for parole

WED SEP 11 1985

By Amanda Covarrubias
The Tribune

John Beery's daughter, Lisa Ann, a sophomore at Skyline High School, was missing for five years. Her mutilated body was recovered in 1979 off a rural road in East Contra Costa County, buried 5 feet deep. The 15-year-old girl had been beaten, stabbed and raped.

The man responsible for the gruesome crime, Phillip Joseph Hughes, whom a prosecutor has called the most dangerous man ever convicted in Alameda

See HUGHES, Page B-3

Continued from Page B-1

County, will be considered for parole tomorrow, five years after his first-degree murder conviction for slaying Beery in 1974.

The serial murderer with necrophiliac tendencies is also responsible for the 1972 killing of 19-year-old Maureen Field of Moraga and the 1975 murder of 25-year-old Leticia Fagot of Walnut Creek.

All were stabbed with a knife or blunt instrument, strangled and raped. Sometimes Hughes had sex with them after he killed them, investigators said.

In 1980, Hughes was sentenced to life in prison for all three first-degree murders. Court decisions at the time had thrown the state's death penalty into limbo, or Hughes may have gotten death.

Instead, with the life sentence, he is allowed periodic parole

evaluations. Tomorrow's hearing is Hughes' first chance at being paroled.

Beery will attend the Board of Prison Terms hearing, at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, where Hughes is imprisoned. Beery will be there, he said, because he believes victims' families must exert pressure on authorities to keep criminals behind bars.

"He does not deserve to be released into society, ever," Beery said yesterday. "People are insulted that he is even being considered for parole."

Prosecutors, investigators and relatives of the other victims say they believe Hughes still poses a serious danger to society.

"This case is the most planned out, the most deliberate and the most bloodthirsty of any that I know of," said Richard Iglehart, deputy district attorney in Ala-

meda County, who prosecuted Hughes in the Beery murder. "He's way too dangerous to ever be released."

Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell, who prosecuted Hughes for the Fagot and Field murders, said Hughes is "the closest thing to a mass murderer we ever had out here."

"He falls into the class of your Trailside Slayer and the rest of them," Waddell said yesterday as he prepared the arguments he will present before the parole board.

Hugh Winig, a Walnut Creek psychiatrist who evaluated Hughes and served as a witness for the prosecution during the Contra Costa County trial, wrote a report to the district attorney's office, recommending Hughes not be released from prison.

"Because of his history of killing, he still poses an explicit dan-

ger," Winig said yesterday.

A three-member panel will hear the arguments at 9 a.m. tomorrow and will probably issue a decision later in the day on whether the 37-year-old Hughes is eligible for parole.

If the panel concludes that parole is warranted, it could set a parole date, which could be immediate or 15 or 20 years down the line, said William Elliott, executive officer for public information.

Deputy District Attorney Iglehart thinks the possibility of Hughes' being paroled is remote.

Pat Field, the mother of Maureen Field, who was abducted from the same Moraga neighborhood where Hughes grew up, said she has protested in writing to the board of prison terms.

"Naturally, this gives you a peculiar feeling, but I doubt very much he will be released," Field said yesterday. "I don't even know why he's up for it."

The bodies of Maureen Field and Beery were discovered buried near Morgan Territory Road in East Contra Costa County.

Fagot's body was found in her home, where she was murdered. The day before he killed her, Hughes had removed the bolts from the back door of the Walnut Creek house she shared with her husband. Hughes returned the next day through the unsecured door and stabbed her several times in the shower. He then called Fagot's workplace and told them not to expect her at work, Iglehart said.

"He is a very methodical, cold-blooded, deliberate killer of the worse kind," said the Oakland prosecutor.

The cases remained mysteries until late in 1979 when Suzanne Perrin, Hughes' wife and an accomplice in the crimes, confessed. She testified against her husband during two separate trials in Alameda and Contra Costa counties in 1980 under an agreement that she would not be prosecuted.

Although Perrin's current whereabouts is unknown, she was last known to be living in Stockton under another name.

Waddell and Iglehart said they believe Hughes is responsible for the murders of several other women whose cases remain unsolved.

Hughes denied parole

FRI SEP 13 1985

By The Tribune news services

SAN LUIS OBISPO — The California Board of Prison Terms denied parole yesterday to Phillip Joseph Hughes, called a "methodical, coldblooded, deliberate killer," who was convicted of stabbing, strangling and raping three Eastbay women five years ago.

Hughes was sentenced to life in prison in 1980 for the first-degree murders of Maureen Field, 19, in 1972; Lisa Ann Beery, 15, in 1974; and Leticia Fagot, 25, in 1975. Authorities said Hughes sometimes had sex with his victims after killing them.

Pat Field, the mother of victim Maureen Field of Moraga, said she was outraged the panel even considered parole for 37-year-old Hughes.

"I think it's ridiculous that he should be allowed to come up before a parole board after being in prison for only five years," Field said. "It was my understanding that he got life."

In the Fagot murder, Hughes removed the bolts from the back door of her home in Walnut Creek the day before slaying her. He entered her home the next day through the unsecured door and stabbed her several times in the shower. He then called Fagot's workplace and told them not to expect her at work, authorities said.

The mutilated bodies of Field and Beery were found buried in East Contra Costa County in 1979. Beery, a 15-year-old Oakland Skyline High School sophomore, had been missing for five years.

John Beery, who attended the parole hearing, said Hughes "does not deserve to be released into society, ever. People are insulted that he is even being considered for parole."

Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Richard Iglehard, who prosecuted the Beery case, told the parole board Hughes is "a deliberate killer of the worst kind."

Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney Jack Waddell said Hughes fell into the "Trail-side Slayer" category — a refer-

Continued from Page B-1

ence to another serial murder case that terrorized Northern Californians in recent years — and should not be released. Waddell was the prosecuting attorney in the Fagot and Hughes killings.

Hugh Winig, a Walnut Creek psychiatrist who evaluated Hughes and served as a witness for the prosecution during the Contra Costa County trial, said, "Because of his history of killing, he still poses an explicit danger."

The murders remained mysteries until late in 1979 when Suzanne Perrin, Hughes' wife and an accomplice in the crimes, confessed. She testified against her husband during two separate trials under agreement that she would not be prosecuted.

'Sadistic' killer of three Eastbay women

MON SEP 26 1988

By Judy Ronningen
The Tribune

Police say John Phillip Hughes spared no detail when he planned the death of Letitia Fagot.

While she was at work, he removed the bolts from the back door of her house in Walnut Creek. The next morning, he entered through the unsecured door and stabbed her to death in the shower.

Then he called the bank where she worked and said she wouldn't be coming in.

Now Hughes, convicted of murdering Fagot and two other Eastbay women, is being considered for parole.

A three-person parole board will meet tomorrow at the California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo, where Hughes has been a prisoner since 1983.

Attorneys who prosecuted Hughes cite his methodical planning of the Fagot murder as one reason why he should never be released from prison.

"He's the meanest, most sadis-

tic person I've ever seen," said Richard Iglehart, an Alameda County deputy district attorney who prosecuted Hughes for the murder of 15-year-old Lisa Beery of Oakland.

Parole is unlikely, according to Iglehart and Jack Waddell, who prosecuted Hughes for the murder of Fagot, 25, and Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga.

But both prosecutors plan to testify tomorrow.

"I'll keep going down there as long as I'm around, I think," Waddell said.

"This is one guy who should never see the light of day."

Hughes, 40, was living in Pleasanton and working as a janitor when he was arrested in 1979 for the three murders after his wife, Suzanne Perrin, went to police.

Perrin testified at his trial that in 1972, she helped bury the body of Maureen Field. Two days later, witnesses said, Hughes telephoned Field's parents and told them he had killed her.

en up for parole

Perrin also admitted helping him abduct Lisa Beery, who was stabbed and raped in a house in Montclair in 1972.

He was sentenced to life in prison in 1980 for the three murders. At the time they were committed, the death penalty had been declared unconstitutional.

Hughes now lives in a medium-security wing at the Men's Colony, works in the prison's manufacturing business and takes classes. His record shows no disciplinary problems, said

Gail Lewis, associate warden.

He was turned down after his first parole hearing in 1985.

Waddell said the prosecutors will ask that Hughes' next parole hearing be postponed for three more years, the maximum delay permitted under law.

But Iglehart believes even three years is too short for the families of the victims, who are trying to forget.

"It reopens old wounds," he said. "You have to start going back to old feeling and emotions."

WED SEP 28 1988

Murderer of three women from Eastbay denied parole

By Judy Ronningen
The Tribune

SAN LUIS OBISPO — John Beery of Alameda flew 260 miles yesterday with two goals in mind: to confront the man who murdered his 15-year-old daughter and to keep him in prison.

He accomplished one.

A review board denied parole Tuesday for triple murderer Philip Hughes, a prisoner at the California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo. His next hearing will be in 1991.

But Beery did not get a chance to confront Hughes, who waived his right to a hearing after learning that the fathers of two of his victims would be present. He stayed in a cell near the parole hearing room.

"I don't think there should be a parole hearing (scheduled) unless he is going to sit here and face us," Beery told the parole board. "I want him to understand: I will be here. I will al-



Philip Hughes stayed in his cell rather than face his victims' families at yesterday's parole hearing.

ways be here. And if I die, my son will be here."

Parole board Chairman David Brown said the state could not force Hughes to attend.

Beery's daughter, Lisa, was a sophomore at Skyline High School in Oakland when she disappeared in 1974. She was hitchhiking to the store to cash a check she earned baby-sitting.

The Beery family spent an agonizing five years searching for their missing daughter before

See MURDERER, Page D-2

learning in 1979 that Hughes had abducted her, raped her and stabbed her to death.

Hughes, 40, also was convicted of raping and murdering Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga and Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

Officials at this yellow cement-block prison, where 1,100 of the 3,400 inmates are lifers, say it is unlikely a multiple murderer like Hughes will get a parole date soon. He has been in prison eight years.

Hughes is aware that a release date now is unlikely, said his attorney, Frank Kocs. He decided to waive the hearing and ask for therapy so that he can show some progress in 1991.

But Joseph Field, the father of Maureen Field, thinks Hughes will lay low as long as the victim's families keep making the trip to San Luis Obispo.

"As soon as we stop coming up, he's going to come out of his shell and try and get a release date," Field said. "But I've got four other daughters and two sons to follow me."

Field's daughter Maureen disappeared in 1972. He said

Hughes apparently offered her a ride after she got off work at K mart in Pleasant Hill. Since her sister knew Hughes slightly — he had gone to Campolindo High School in Moraga in 1964 through 1966 — Maureen accepted the ride.

"He called me the night he killed her," said Field. Hughes called anonymously and said Maureen was dead and he was the killer.

"We didn't find her for three months," Field said. "But I knew he wasn't kidding. The police didn't know, but I knew."

Prison officials say Hughes has no record of disciplinary problems and works in one of the prison industries. He gets A's in his college classes.

The parole board considers all that, along with public opinion, said Ted McAlister, associate warden for classification and treatment.

About 70 people wrote opposing Hughes' release, McAlister said, and a half-dozen phoned.

One call came from a home-maker in Dublin who didn't know anyone involved in the case, but read about it in the newspaper.

Major factors in setting a parole date are the type of crimes Hughes committed and his psychological evaluation. The psychologist says he is not ready to leave prison and may never be ready, officials said.

Kocs said Hughes is on a waiting list for psychiatric care, but inmates with more time in the system are ahead of him.

Kocs says Hughes is remorseful about the murders.

But Richard Iglehart, the deputy district attorney who prosecuted Hughes for the murder of Lisa Beery, disagrees: "The guy doesn't have it in him."

WED AUG 28 1991

Triple murderer waives parole hearing

A former Pleasanton janitor, serving three life sentences for three Eastbay murders, has asked not to be considered for parole for the second time in three years.

~~Phillip~~ Hughes, 43, was scheduled for a parole hearing yesterday but was granted permission to have his case heard instead in two more years, state Board of Prison Terms spokeswoman Liz Tanaka said. Hughes is a prisoner at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo County.

He was convicted by an Alameda County jury in 1980 of the 1974 killing of Lisa Beery, 15, of Oakland. Prosecutors said Hughes picked up the hitchhiking teenager and then stabbed her to death before raping her.

Hughes was also convicted in 1980 of the 1972 rape and stabbing death of Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga and the 1975 bludgeoning, rape and strangulation of Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek.

Hughes waived his second scheduled parole hearing in 1988.

Parole hearing today for noted triple slayer

TUE DEC - 7 1993

By Harry Harris
STAFF WRITER

A "methodical, coldblooded" murderer who cruised East Bay streets more than 10 years ago looking for victims, some of whom he had sex with after killing them, is scheduled for a parole hearing today.

Philip Joseph Hughes was convicted in 1980 of three East Bay killings, including the fatal stabbing and rape of Lisa Ann Beery, 15, of Oakland, in 1974. Her body was found in an Orinda hill grave five years later.

Beery, a sophomore at Skyline High School, was abducted in Montclair in January 1974 while walking to a store to cash a check, pay for baby-sitting.

Beery was killed nearby, in a home that Hughes and his wife had been "house-sitting," and was buried where she was found.

Hughes, 45, is in the California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo. He was convicted of two other

slayings.

T.S.
Lisa Beery's father, John Beery of Alameda, had gone to the hearing and could not be reached for comment.

Besides the Beery killing that an Alameda County jury found him guilty of, Hughes was convicted in Contra Costa County of the rape-murder of Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga, in 1972, and the beating, rape and strangulation of Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek, in 1975. Jurors in both counties rejected an insanity defense.

There was no death penalty in 1980, when Hughes was sentenced to three concurrent life terms. He was denied parole in 1985 and 1988 and waived his parole hearing in 1991. Terri Knight, prison public information officer, said Monday that Hughes had "not yet made up his mind" whether he would appear today before the three-member parole review board.

No parole for serial killer

WED DEC - 8 1993

By Harry Harris

STAFF WRITER

Agreeing with a psychiatric report that labeled him a serial killer for whom "there is no adequate treatment," a review board Tuesday denied parole to Philip Hughes, who murdered at least three East Bay women in the 1970s.

Incarcerated at the California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo, where the parole hearing was held, Hughes will not be eligible for another hearing until 1998.

A Department of Corrections spokesperson said Hughes "opted not to attend the hearing, which is his right to do."

At Tuesday's hearing the three-member review panel was told Hughes had a "sexually deviant history" and had "acted out bizarre behavior" since he was in kindergarten.

A "totally negative" psychiatric report "basically labeled (Hughes) a serial killer" and concluded "there is no adequate treatment for a person with his problems" the spokesperson said.

Hughes, who raped some of his victims after killing them, was described to the panel by Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Richard

Please see **Killer**, page B-2

Iglehart, who prosecuted Hughes, as "sadistic and calculating." Iglehart testified Hughes is still suspected of several other murders "and has shown no inclination to cooperate" with police to "put those cases to rest."

Hughes was convicted in 1980 of three murders, including the 1974 stabbing and rape of 15-year-old Lisa Ann Beery of Oakland, found buried on an Orinda hillside five years later.

Lisa Beery's father, John Beery, who now lives in Alameda, testified at Tuesday's hearing but could not be reached for comment.

Hughes was also convicted in Contra Costa County of the 1972 rape-murder of Maureen Field, 19, of Moraga and the 1975 beating, rape and strangulation of Letitia Fagot, 25, of Walnut Creek. Hughes confessed to the three killings and jurors in the two counties did not believe his insanity defense.

Iglehart said prosecutors would have sought the death penalty for Hughes had it been in effect at the time of the killings.

Hughes was arrested in the summer of 1979, after his wife went to Oakland police and told a frightening story of seven years of murder and perversion that she said had become too much for her to bear.

The wife not only witnessed some of the killings but also helped Hughes abduct some of his victims. She was eventually granted immunity and testified against Hughes at his trials.

She told police Hughes was obsessed with violence against women and often forced her to take off her clothes and submit to simulated killings. She said Hughes would photograph her pretending to have been shot, strangled, hanged and stabbed to death, and occasionally would throttle her until she passed out.

Retired Oakland police Sgt. Alex Smith, who headed the police investigation, said Hughes had "serious deep-rooted sexual problems that were only satisfied when he was able to murder someone."